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Issue No 128  
Available from Wednesday,  
March 10, 2010

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Helping you make  
the right choice

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A tough year for  
car king Toyota

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Round-up of all  
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# CRIMINALS FEEL FORCE OF THE LAW

TERRIFIED screams and deafening crashes filled a usually peaceful cul-de-sac when uniformed police swooped on an unsuspecting household as part of a series of raids.

The shocked cries were from a female tenant at the home in Ringlestone, who was first to see the officers as they smashed their way through the front door on Thursday morning.

The dramatic 9am forced entry was

## EXCLUSIVE

BY ANNA WHITE

over in seconds as six officers jumped from a marked van, ran to the front door and smashed through the front door with a heavy ram.

After spending an hour searching the house – using a trained police dog – three offenders were marched out and into waiting police vehicles.

The officers had discovered at least 30 wraps of what is believed to be class A drugs, cash and six mobile telephones. The suspects – a 27-year-

old woman and two men, one aged 19 and the other 35 – were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs.

All were released on bail until April 26. The house was targeted as part of an operation across mid-Kent to catch suspected and known burglars.

Although nothing connected to a burglary offence was found in the property, officers were pleased with their findings.

Sgt John Marshall, of Maidstone's Tact Team, said: "The aim of the day was a concerted drive against burglars. Burglary has a huge impact on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## RUDE AWAKENING

Police use heavy tools and physical force to gain entry into a house of a suspected burglar during a morning raid. Although no burglary-related finds were made, officers found Class A drugs and cash – with help from a trained police dog.

The raid was part of an operation across mid Kent to tackle known and suspected burglars. The initiative was hailed a great success, with holding cells in Maidstone and Sittingbourne at full capacity.

ISSN 1753-121-7



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Printed by Newsfax

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# Band D council tax increase will total £33

■ BY ANNA WHITE

THE average family in Maidstone will pay about £33 extra in council tax for the next financial year – with a band D property paying a total £1,476.80.

The overall council tax bill is made up of payments to Kent County Council, Maidstone council, Kent Police Authority and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority. Maidstone council has set a 2.49 per cent increase for 2010/11.

Leader Cllr Chris Garland said the council was able to set a lower rate than last year's 4.46 per cent after it found £1.6 million of savings – £700,000 from staff budgets.

Cllr Garland said: "The borough has set a budget to protect frontline services, invest in jobs and for affordable housing.

"We had to find savings of £1.6m. Maidstone people told us they were prepared to pay a little extra to keep frontline services, provided we made savings where we could, particularly in staff. The increase is the council's lowest in a decade and I expect it will be one of the lowest in Kent."

The budget was agreed after consultation with the public and scrutiny committees.

KCC has set an increase of 2.1 per cent and will receive the majority of the overall council tax bill. Kent Police Authority increased its share by 2.99 per cent and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority increased its rate by 2.86 per cent.

From the average band D property, KCC will receive £1,047.78, Maidstone council will receive £222.39, Kent Police Authority will receive £138.68 and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority



**LOWER RATE:** Council leader Chris Garland will receive £67.95.

The overall council tax settlement means Band A homes in Maidstone will pay £984.54 this year, which is an increase of £21.89 from the £962.65 last year.

Band B will increase by £25.89, and households will pay £1,148.62 instead of last year's £1,123.09.

Band C council tax will increase by £29.18, bringing the total to £1,312.71 up from £1,283.53 last year.

Band D, the average household, will increase by £32.82. Families in this band will pay £1,476.80 instead of £1,443.97 last year.

Band E council tax has increased by £40.11, bringing the total to £1,804.96 instead of last year's £1,764.85.

Band F homes were paying £2,085.73. This year they will pay £2,133.15, an increase of £47.42.

Band G households will now pay £2,461.34, which is an extra £54.72 from last year's £2,406.62.

Band H homes were paying £2,887.92 last year; this year they will now pay an extra £65.66 bringing the total up to £2,953.60.

## Turning the screw on number plate crooks

VILLAGERS will receive crime-busting adjustments to their cars as part of the ongoing battle against number plate theft.

Police will visit motorists in Harrietsham on Wednesday, March 17, to fit one-way screws to their plates.

The screws are not easily removed and are finished with a security cap to act as a deterrent to thieves.

The issue is being tackled nationwide to stop plates being stolen by criminals to clone other cars, while innocent motorists can incur speeding fines, congestion charges and other offences as a result.

The free anti-tamper screws will be fitted to cars at Harrietsham village Hall between 9am and noon.

The Police Community Support Officer for the area will be on hand.

## Follow yellow brick road to stardom

PANTO directors are coming to Maidstone in hope they will discover children to play munchkins in their upcoming production.

A team from New World Productions, which puts together the Christmas shows at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone, will be at Park Way Primary School, Park Wood, to recruit new potential stars.

Any youngsters aged six and above who attend the workshop will automatically become a munchkin in the company's production of The Wizard of Oz at the Central Theatre, Chatham.

The show, which runs from April 1 to 5, stars comedian Joe Pasquale and Dani Harmer, the actress who plays Tracey Beaker on CBBC.

The workshop will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28. To book a place for or more information, visit www.newworldworkshops.co.uk.

## Drain covers lifted

POLICE are appealing for information after a dozen cast iron gully covers were stolen from a rural road.

The six drain covers were taken from Lower Road, East Farleigh, at some point between Monday, March 1, and Wednesday, March 3.

The removed gullies made the road dangerous for motorists. Anyone with information is asked to call 01622 690055.

# Raids target burglary suspects

FROM FRONT PAGE

people's lives and is a crime that is often linked with drug-taking and dealing.

"It has been an excellent result, but the good work doesn't stop here.

"What we achieved could open another four doors tomorrow and that in turn could open another 12 next week."

The second raid was different to the first as the officers – with me in tow – were forced to run up the stairs in an apartment block near the town centre and force their way into a flat, shortly after 1pm.

It proved to be negative, but Sgt Marshall assured me they had real reason to suspect the owner and the check was necessary.

Both raided homes had been left



**SUSPICIOUS:** Officer examines wraps

with damaged doors – which a contractor quickly repaired – but I wanted to know why they couldn't just ring the doorbell.

Officers explained a spontaneous entry stops the suspect hiding any drugs or escaping before the police

enter. While the team I was trailing was busy forcing open doors near the town centre, other teams had arrested three people in other areas.

A 15-year-old from Chart Sutton was charged with burglary and will appear at Maidstone Youth Court next Monday.

Lewis O'Brien, 19, of Cambridge Crescent, was charged with theft and possession of controlled drugs in Sutton Road. He was remanded to appear in court on Friday.

And a 23-year-old man was arrested in Wallis Avenue, Park Wood, on suspicion of burglary, but later released without charge.

It proved to be busy day for the mid-Kent tactical teams which led to full holding cells at Maidstone and Swale stations.



# Farewell to lost Scout

■ BY ANNA WHITE

A YOUNG Scout leader was laid to rest wearing the uniform he had loved since he was six years old.

The funeral of Stephen Young, from Borough Green, who was killed in a fall in the Scottish Highlands, was held after a memorial service at Rochester Cathedral yesterday (Tuesday).

Hundreds of relatives and friends attended to pay their final respects and to celebrate the youngster's life.

The 18-year-old's mother, Judy Young, had asked guests to wear bright colours on the day to represent her son's "amazing" personality. Scouts were also invited to wear their uniforms.

The teenager was taking part in an annual Scout trip to the Cairngorms when he stepped on to a shelf of snow and plummeted into the void below, on February 15.

He was airlifted to a hospital in Fort William from the 3,701ft high cliff circuit on Creag Meagaidh, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

In a statement, Ms Young, who was also on the trip with her brother Andrew, 46, said: "Stephen was a unique young man who has clearly touched the lives of so many people. He meant the world to his whole family."

The former Oakwood Park Grammar student had been in the Scouting movement since he was six.

Since his death, more than 2,830 members have joined a dedicated group on Facebook where hundreds of messages, photos and memories have been posted.

Many of the members were expected to attend yesterday's service which was conducted by the Rev Canon Brenda Hurd.

Canon Hurd said: "Stephen was an experienced Scout leader who was taken from his family in tragic circumstances. He died doing something he loved and he was a wonderful role model to young people today."



STEPHEN YOUNG: The Scout leader's memorial service in Rochester Cathedral was attended by hundreds of mourners

The order of service included hymns Jerusalem, How Great Thou Art, Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah, the theme from the film Top Gun and a campfire song.

Readings were taken from the Scout Law, The Promise, Philippians 3: 10-17 and a poem.

Following the service, guests were invited to join the family at Medway Crematorium – where mourners were asked to write a last

message to Stephen and attach it to one of 1,000 balloons, released near the moat.

The family requested no flowers, but donations can be made in Stephen's name to Demelza House, Sittingbourne.

Demelza House was close to the youngster's heart. Stephen camped in his back garden for a whole year in 2007 to raise more than £2,000 for the children's charity.

## Ram raid clothes haul police plea

PHOTOS of clothes taken in an early morning ram raid have been released by police in a bid to catch the thieves.

The items were just some of the garments taken from Lady Mop, in Headcorn, when a 4x4 vehicle crashed through the shop front.

Thousands of pounds of designer goods was stolen from the High Street store – including pieces by Roberto Naldi, Doris Stretch, Moza IK and Steilmann.

Police fear the thieves could attempt to resell the high-end clothes and want to see them returned to the shop owner.

The raid was carried out at 3am on Tuesday, February 23.

A witness told police they saw three male offenders, all wearing hooded tops.

It is believed the 4x4 used in the crime was a dark-coloured old-style Jeep Cherokee, which was seen driving away towards Tenterden on the A274. Anyone who has been offered these clothes, perhaps at a knockdown price, is asked to call police on 01795 419161.



## Thug's vicious cabbie attack

A MAN has been locked up indefinitely for a "vicious" attack on a 64-year-old taxi driver who was left with serious facial injuries.

Mark Heanan, 23, from Edenbridge, will serve a minimum of three years, seven months and seven days after he pleaded guilty to wounding with intent.

He was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday, after the attack on Gordon Bailey in Paddock Wood in July, 2009.

Det Sgt Miles Bishop of Kent Police said: "This was a vicious, prolonged and cowardly attack.

"Mr Bailey was in no position to defend himself, yet Heanan continued the assault with the intention of causing him serious harm."

Heanan and a companion had been driven to Paddock Wood from Gravesend.

As they reached their destination, Heanan climbed into the front of the taxi. He demanded the keys and when the driver refused carried out his attack. He then ran from the scene with the taxi takings, leaving his victim with serious facial injuries.

## Pupils meet Dick's recycling challenge

A TELEVISION presenter was the guest of honour at the opening of a new environmentally-friendly recycling depot.

Dick Strawbridge, a presenter on Channel Four's Scrapheap Challenge, was joined by Mayor of Maidstone Cllr Peter Parvin to cut the ribbon of the building in Bircholt Road, Park Wood.

Pat Gallagher, chairman of the Gallagher construction group, was also on hand to give the guests a tour of the site.

The trio were then asked to judge a challenge which saw children from Bell Wood School, Park Wood, make new objects from recycled materials.

Cllr Mark Wooding, Maidstone council's cabinet member for the environment, said: "Dick Strawbridge is a great TV presenter, with a lot of knowledge about the environment.

"It was good to hear what he thought of the depot, the council's focus on the reuse and recycling of materials, and the BREEAM rating that has been awarded."

A BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) is the leading and most widely used procedure to test a building's environmental per-



BOX CLEVER: Dick Strawbridge with pupils

formance.

It is awarded to high-performing sites and the new building was seen worthy of the accolade for its solar hot water panels, rainwater harvesting and water-saving devices, natural ventilation, intelligent lighting and low energy fittings and cycling facilities for staff.

A Gallagher spokesman said: "Gallagher is pleased to have been able to help deliver a project that Maidstone can be proud of." The new site was funded by the sale of the old depot in Armstrong Road, Tovil.

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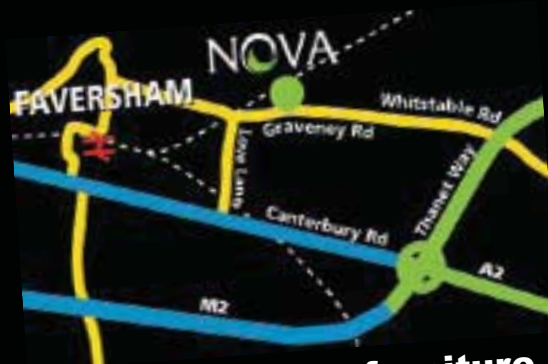
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# Farm union backs grocery watchdog

■ BY ANNA WHITE

A FRUIT farmer at the forefront of a national campaign group has welcomed the proposed introduction of a supermarket watchdog.

Charles Tassell, from Ulcombe, is chairman of the Kent branch of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), the main UK body for the agriculture industry.

Mr Tassell and fellow NFU chiefs are continuing to urge the Government to pass a private members bill which would see an independent ombudsman appointed to the grocery sector.

The role of the ombudsman would be to clamp down on alleged anti-competitive practices by supermarket chains and investigate complaints from retailers and suppliers.

The NFU also believes an ombudsman could ultimately help ensure farmers receive fair prices.

Mr Tassell, whose farm produces Gala apples, said: "A properly constituted grocery market ombudsman will not curb the power of the retailers to negotiate great value for British consumers but it will curb the abuse of market power that leads to many producers leaving the industry."

According to Mr Tassell, a former student at Hadlow College, some of farming sectors – such as dairy – have slumped as a result of slashing prices to compete with supermarket giants.

The NFU believes an ombudsman would help farmers complain about alleged unfair practices in private, without the risk of losing contracts.

But the idea of a grocery watchdog has not been welcomed by the supermarkets.

The chief executive of Tesco, Sir Terry Leahy, told the Financial Times he was strongly against the plans.

He said: "I'm not in favour of an ombudsman. Everyone knows supermarkets are one



FAIR DEAL: Kent NFU chairman Charles Tassell

of the most competitive industries. That competition puts power in the hands of the consumer.

"In a free society, why would you want an ombudsman if there are no problems now as far as consumers are concerned? An ombudsman would be there to protect suppliers but should be there to protect the consumers."

The proposal received cross-part support, except Conservative backbenchers Philip Davies and Christopher Chope, who both voted against it. Mr Davies, a former employee of ASDA, said the bill would lead to higher prices for consumers.

However, Conservative spokesman John Penrose and the Liberal Democrat representative Andrew George disagreed with the backbenchers and said the bill was about clamping down on price fixing.

The bill, introduced by Labour MP Albert Owen, passed its second reading in the House of Lords on Friday. It will need to pass a third before it can be implemented.

## yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

### Church fall death mystery

A MAN has died after he was found severely injured on church grounds.

Stephen Ayre, 51, of Westmorland Road, Maidstone, was discovered near St Peter and Paul's Church, Aylesford, on Friday, February 26m at about 7.30pm.

He had suffered head injuries which police said were "consistent with a fall".

Mr Ayre was taken by ambulance to Maidstone Hospital and was later transferred to a London hospital, where he died the following day. Police are not treating the matter as suspicious. An inquest was opened and adjourned on Friday.

Det Ch Insp Jon Bumpus said: "We need to establish if anyone else was in the area between 6.30pm and 8pm, in particular anyone who may be able to help us understand how he came by his injuries."

Call police on 01732 370 217, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### Taking tea with president

MAIDSTONE and Weald MP Ann Widdecombe is to host a tea party to celebrate the work of charity volunteers.

She will be at the Ramada Hotel, Hollingbourne, on Saturday to recognise the achievements of Multiple Sclerosis Society workers.

Ms Widdecombe is president of the Maidstone-based charity but will step down from the role when she retires from parliament at this year's General Election.

The event will also give the volunteers the opportunity to thank the president for all of her work.

### A charity night to tango

RESIDENTS are invited to an evening of glorious food and energetic dancing aimed at raising money for a children's charity.

Dance teachers Sara and Mike Higgins, from Tango Moon in Dartford, are hosting the charity event tonight (Wednesday) at MuMu Restaurant. The two-course meal and special performance of the Tango costs £15 and is in aid of the NSPCC. The price includes a 30-minute group lesson with the professionals.

Call Mary Ratcliffe on 01622 752163 if you would like to attend.

The evening starts at 7.30pm.

## More progress in maternity battle



CAMPAIGNERS fighting plans to downgrade Maidstone maternity services have made more progress after the hospital's chief executive agreed to meet.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust boss Glenn Douglas met with Helen Grant – the Conservative parliamentary candidate for the town – to discuss plans to move the consultant-led department to the new Pembury hospital.

After the meeting, Mrs Grant, who is working with her three parliamentary rivals to reverse the decision, also secured a meeting between Mr Douglas and shadow health secretary Andrew Lansley (pictured above with Mrs Grant).

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# Drivers under fire in stop check

■ BY ANNA WHITE

**LAW-BREAKING** motorists were slapped with fines after they were caught red handed by police during a seven-hour stop check.

More than 70 drivers were stopped during the operation in London Road, Allington – which was prompted by concerned calls from residents about vehicles ignoring the law.

Chief constable Michael Fuller, who attended the initiative on Tuesday, said: "It's very important that we responded to public concerns and that we deal with the issues that matter to local people."

Fifteen of the guilty motorists were fined for not wearing a seatbelt, six fixed penalties were issued for having no insurance and three drivers

were penalised for using mobile phones.

Two drivers have been summoned to court – one for driving while under a provisional licence and the other for having no MOT.

Chief Constable Fuller added: "It's a danger to everyone if we have vehicles on the road where the drivers have no insurance and I think it's really good news that a large number of vehicles have been taken off the roads and the drivers forced to get insurance."

## Warrants

Police officers present at the multi-agency stop check were the central bike team, the Auto Number Plate Recognition department (ANPR), detectives and the Maidstone urban neighbourhood squad.

Other services present at the checks included the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

(VOSA), Maidstone council's environmental enforcement officers and the Immigration Service.

Together the partner agencies obtained seven warrants and collected £2,142 in outstanding fines, as well as giving £300 fines to five drivers who were carrying waste without a correct licence. Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Hannah Percival, who covers Bridge and Allington wards, organised the initiative.

She said: "I am delighted with the success of the operation which was set up in direct response to the feedback from local residents."

"I wanted to take a proactive and robust approach to those ignoring road laws, either through speeding, not wearing seatbelts or using a phone while driving and this road check has certainly sent a strong message that these offences will not be tolerated."



**WATCH OUT:** Stop Check motorbike officer

# Gallery visitors are all Hart as they raise £4,000 for Gurkha soldiers



**IN MEMORY:** Dan Daley, Holly Gerrard, Carolyn Williams and Brian Moss with tribute piece at Hazlitt Arts Centre

**GENEROUS** gallery visitors have raised almost £4,000 for Gurkha soldiers in honour of the late children's artist Tony Hart.

The funds were collected at a special exhibition of the Take Hart presenter's work at the Hazlitt Art Centre, in Earl Street.

The collection, which ended on Friday, February 26, attracted more than 1,000 visitors during its first month, who have all helped raise £3,837 for The Gurkha Welfare Trust.

Cabinet member for leisure and culture, councillor Brian Moss, said: "This is a staggering sum of money which will go to a very worthy cause."

"Maidstone has been waiting a long time for a Tony Hart exhibition."

The exhibition was organised by the council and made possible thanks to the Maidstone-born artist's daughter, Carolyn Williams.

Mrs Williams selected a collection of her beloved father's paintings and drawings to go on display at the art centre's Graham Clarke Gallery.

Alongside Hart's artwork in the gallery is a tribute to him created by Holly Gerrard, a pupil at Invicta Grammar School.

The youngster's piece was not one of the artworks which were sold at auction to help raise the funds for the worthwhile charity, which Mr Hart's daughter is over the moon about.

Mrs Williams said: "That is just absolutely superb. I am thrilled and so pleased."

The charity was chosen in memory of the late artist, who died at his home in Surrey in January last year, and was once a member of the Gurkha Rifles.

Hart remained in touch with his military roots and held several of his own fundraisers to help the soldiers of Nepal.

Since his death, Maidstone residents and councillors have done their best to pay tribute to his memory with a special plaque unveiled in the Graham Clarke Gallery and the special artwork created by schoolgirl Holly.

Both tributes were a result of a campaign on social networking site Facebook which called for a statue or monument to be built in Maidstone as a lasting memorial for Hart.



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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### DR SHUSHIL DATTANI



**Q** Tell us a bit about yourself?

**A** I qualified as a dental practitioner in 2000, and following a two-year programme I gained membership to the Faculty of General Dental Practice at the Royal College of Surgeons. I have since completed Diploma in Implant Dentistry at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

I am a member of the Association of Dental Implantologists and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentists, and regularly attend training courses around the world. I have also recently completed a course on Facial Aesthetics at the Royal College of Surgeons.

I live in Sevenoaks with my wife and daughter.

**Q** Why did you want to get into cosmetic dentistry and facial aesthetics?

**A** Within two years of qualifying as a dentist, I started to become more interested in the fields of cosmetic and implant dentistry.

Although I gain great satisfaction from helping patients with routine dentistry, the satisfaction I receive from giving a patient the opportunity to smile again is amazing.

The changes I can see in a patient's personality and confidence, along with the stories from patients on how their lives have changed give me an immeasurable sense of achievement. Facial aesthetics was the next phase, helping patients reverse signs of ageing.

**Q** Have you had such treatment yourself?

**A** I have had my teeth straightened and whitened – after all, my smile is the best advertisement. I also have Botulinum toxin injections to soften the lines between my eye brows.

**Q** What are the benefits of having cosmetic work done to your teeth and face?

**A** Some people are too embarrassed by their teeth to smile. This can have huge repercussions in both their personal and working life. Many of my patients have jobs which require them to address groups of people, and they feel embarrassed, and even inhibited because of their teeth. Some patients find that their smile causes them embarrassment when looking for a partner. Cosmetic dentistry aims to give patients back a natural, more aesthetically pleasing smile, helping to enhance a patient's confidence, morale and spirits.

With regards to facial aesthetics, I aim to provide patients with a younger, fresher look – not redesign the face.

**Q** Is the finished outcome easy to maintain or would patients need to return regularly for more work?

**A** It is always recommended that a patient visits their dentist and hygienist on a six monthly basis. The effects of botulinum toxin and dermal fillers usually last between four to six months, after which patients need to return for a top-up.

**Q** Sometimes such procedures can cause side effects, how can you reassure potential patients there would not be a risk?

**A** No medical intervention is without side effects or risks. However, botulinum toxin and hyaluronic acid (the 'ingredient' in dermal fillers) have been proven safe and effective for the use in reducing wrinkles and lines. In fact, Hyaluronic acid is even produced naturally in the human body.

**Q** You have just opened a surgery in Northumberland Road, Shepway, why did you choose this location?

**A** I have been in this practice for the last five years, but we have recently undergone a huge refurbishment and modernisation – so it doesn't feel like the same practice at all. The name has also changed to the Kent Smile Studio, which reflects our modern appearance.

**Q** Do you offer standard dentistry as well?

**A** I and two other dentists provide patients with routine dental care, and a dental therapist promote the prevention of dental disease, and carries out hygiene cleans and simple fillings.

**Q** How can people find out more about your services?

**A** Visit our web site on [www.kentsmilestudio.com](http://www.kentsmilestudio.com) or telephone us on 01622 754662.

**Q&A**

Cosmetic dentist Dr Shushil Dattani talks to **Anna White** about his job, his qualifications and the facial and dental treatments he and his colleagues offer at his new Kent Smile Studio in Maidstone.

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# Young adults invited to take chlamydia test

YOUNG residents are being targeted in a campaign to highlight the importance of testing for sexually transmitted infections.

Thousands of letters have been sent out to all 18- to 24-year-olds in Maidstone to make them aware of the different ways they can be checked for chlamydia.

The informative leaflets tells the reader they can text, phone, email, write or visit a website to request a home testing kit for the condition.

The mail-out is part of NHS West Kent's drive to make it easier for the target age group to be screened for the potentially very harmful infection.

Ann Garner, chlamydia screening co-ordinator for the West Kent area, said: "It is so important for all young people who are sexually active to have a chlamydia test, even if they don't think they have caught it."

"There are so many ways for young people to have a chlamydia test, and this mail-out makes it easier for people to discover the

■ BY ANNA WHITE

screening services available for them."

Once a kit is received in the post, males simply need to provide a urine sample and females a self-taken swab.

The samples are then sent back via Freepost to a laboratory and results will be received within two weeks either by a text message, phone call or letter.

If the result is positive, the patient is advised where they can go to get free antibiotics which clear the infection quickly and easily.

Chlamydia is the most common STI amongst young people, with one in 14 sexually active under 25s who are tested found to be carrying the condition.

Seventy-five per cent of women and 50 per cent of men with the infection have no symptoms, but if left untreated, it can lead to infertility.

For more information or to request a free home testing kit, visit [www.whatsinyourpants.co.uk](http://www.whatsinyourpants.co.uk).

# Council forces sale of home to pay for urgent repairs

AN EMPTY house which was crawling with vermin had been spruced up and sold at auction for more than £110,000.

The home (pictured), in Peel Street, near Penenden Heath, was seized and sold by Maidstone council after the owner failed to pay for much-needed repair works.

It had been empty for more than 20 years and hoards of rotten food had attracted rats and other vermin.

After complaints from neighbours an improvement notice was served to the owner, but it was ignored.

The council was then forced to arrange and carry out repairs costing about £4,000 to secure and revamp the run-down building.

When the owner failed to repay the costs for the repairs the enforcement action was served to seize the house.

Cabinet member for regeneration, Cllr Malcolm Greer, said: "The action taken by the council was deemed the most appropriate means of bringing the property back into use. We had tried to work with the owner to improve the property, but we had no success."

"The council's policy is to try and bring empty properties back into use. Such properties could provide families with a home."

As well as the maintenance work, the council paid for the property inside the house to be placed in storage. The cost will be deducted from the final sale price and the owner will then be entitled to the remainder.

The money will be put into an account and the owner, who lives in London, will be contacted.

This is the first time the council has forced the sale of an empty property.



Councillor Greer added: "Long-term empty properties blight our communities and the council will investigate such matters and try and work with owners to bring them back into use, only taking extreme measures if all communication fails."

"The council has certain powers to bring properties back into use and where appropriate will take such action."

The mid-terrace house was sold for £112,000 at the Clive Emson auction on Monday, February 22, at the Ramada Hotel, Hollingbourne.

For details of auctions in the future visit [www.cliveemson.co.uk](http://www.cliveemson.co.uk).

Don't miss our March

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# Wireless 'Avatar' technology opens up new medical world

BY CHRIS MURPHY

TECHNOLOGY used to make triple-Oscar winning 3D film Avatar is being used by a university to research groundbreaking ways of allowing sick children to leave behind life-saving monitoring equipment.

The hi-tech movie approach is being used by researchers at the School of Engineering and Digital Arts at the University of Kent.

It has snapped up a motion capture system and scanner to research how wireless devices actually work.

Most of us know the concept of a wireless device thanks to our wide use of mobile phones and laptops. But we also know how annoying it is when we lose the signal.

What this new equipment will hopefully do is allow the development of machines and sensors that don't drop their signals.

Once that's done, they could be used in hospitals to free patients 'tied' to vital monitoring machines.



REAL LIFE: Student Alan Yang in motion capture suit



NEW WORLD: James Cameron's 3D blockbuster Avatar used motion capture technology to create stunning visuals

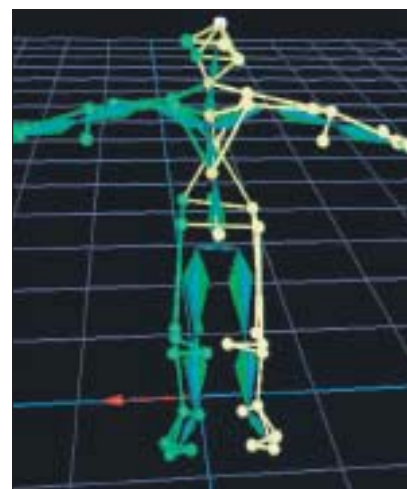
They could even be used in people's homes. This new project is being run with Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London.

Dr John Batchelor is a senior lecturer in electronic engineering at the University of Kent. He realised a wireless system would allow youngsters in hospital who are wired to various machines more freedom to get up and play.

But wireless is prone to losing connection, just like a mobile phone. But if this happened while a child was hooked up wirelessly to something like a heart monitoring machine and lost connection during a heart attack, the results could be fatal.

So using a £500,000 grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Dr Batchelor bought a VICON infrared motion capture system and a 3D laser Anthroscan scanner which produces 3D image of an entire person in a few seconds. It's one of just two in the UK.

Using the big budget movie quality system, he will be able to monitor exactly how wireless



ON SCREEN: Human figure captured in computer model



GREEN SCREEN: Student's movements are captured

radio waves 'wrap' around a person or object. His team will be able to help design a new breed of devices that can 'see' each other all the time, no matter what obstacles are placed between the sender and receiver.

The data will be used to animate 3D scans of their bodies. It is these 'avatars', or computer-animated characters, that will allow the team to analyse radio waves 'creeping' around the body and from this ascertain the implications for power and battery management on wireless devices.

Dr Batchelor said: "Currently, children undergoing lengthy observations in hospitals may be tethered by cables and wires for long periods. When I heard about this, I thought there had to be a way to free them and other patients from their attachment to machines."

"By extension, new methods must also now be found to allow ill and ageing people to stay in their own homes, where many of them would prefer to be."



ACTION POSE: Scanned avatar performs a karate kick

AUSTRALIAN heart-throb Jason Donovan made a flying visit to Bluewater last week.

And he admitted he's never worked harder in his long career as he prepares for another musical, the release of a new album and hosting a weekly top radio show.

The 41-year-old, who made his name in hit soap Neighbours before embarking on a remarkable career which saw him top the charts with a string of singles and then tread the boards in West End musicals, was helping launch the latest Australian travel brochure for travel firm Kuoni.

Hundreds of fans queued up to get a glimpse of the star, who chatted and signed autographs.

Donovan presents a regular Sunday night show on Heart – previously Invicta FM – and was joined at Bluewater by drivetime host Neil Kefford.

It was the start of a long day for the star. He is currently appearing in the musical Priscilla Queen of the Desert in London and is already starting rehearsals for his role in the touring version of Jeff Wayne's The War Of The Worlds. It takes in a host of arena dates later this year and next – including a show at the O2 Arena in Greenwich.

Speaking exclusively to this newspaper, Donovan revealed what he believes is the

## Stars in her eyes as our Anna meets Aussie actor Donovan



HELLO THERE: Yourmaidstone reporter Anna White and Tunbridge Wells on Sunday editor Chris Britcher fulfil an ambition by meeting Australian actor, singer and DJ Jason Donovan

secret to a career which has now stretched over 20 years in the limelight.

He explained: "One could argue you need to



have a little bit of talent to last this long. But you need a lot of luck along the way, and I work very hard. I don't finish work today, for

example, until 11.30pm.

"The essence of it is a love for the craft of singing, acting and performing. I still love that side of it. It's a lot of hard work and a highly pressured job."

"I cope with that thanks to a great family."

And he enjoys his trips to Kent when he gets the chance to visit from his west London home.

He said: "I've been here lots. I'd like to spend more quality time here, but my main base is London. I do have connections with Ashford through my family, but I haven't spent much time there."

Mr Donovan rose to fame as Scott Robinson in Neighbours with his on-screen relationship with Kylie Minogue developing off it too.

After securing three number one hits in the late 1980s, his career nose-dived after he successfully sued The Face magazine after they suggested he was gay.

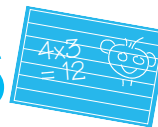
He was tagged homophobic – a claim he has always denied – and later admitted taking the court action was one of the biggest mistakes of his life.

In the mid-1990s he suffered an addiction to cocaine and cannabis. He has been clean for ten years and found fame more recently when he starred in ITV's I'm a Celebrity.

He releases a new album in September.

Picture: ANNA WHITE





## BREAK TIME

### Pupils' power play



**HARD-HITTING:** Academy drama students

DRAMA students staged a powerful performance to warn their peers about the devastating effects anti-social behaviour can have on individuals and families.

The youngsters used a mix of physical theatre and naturalistic scenes to tell the real-life story of a mother and daughter who took their own lives after being bullied by a teenage gang.

New Line Learning Academy head-teacher Guy Hewett thought the performance was "thought-provoking and moving" and of the "highest quality".

Academy students sought inspiration for the show by asking classmates to complete a questionnaire about their experiences of unkind behaviour.

It is hoped the group will take their drama to other schools in Maidstone.

### A day to remember

SIXTH-formers and primary school pupils celebrated World Book Day together with a range of activities.

Senior students and staff from Invicta Grammar made sure the younger children wouldn't forget the day in a hurry with games and fancy dress. The theme was traditional stories, particularly Aesop's Fables. Pupils at East Borough Primary dressed as their favourite animal character from the tales and tried to create their own fables.

# Hands up for hygiene

■ BY ANNA WHITE

**HYGIENE-conscious** schoolchildren learned how to become germ detectives when they spent a day in the life of a doctor.

Youngsters from Brunswick House Primary School, off London Road, were given top tips to fight infection from training staff at the nearby BMI Somerfield Hospital.

The hospital's clean team – led by the director of nursing and quality, Katherine Catchpole – taught year one and year two classes about how germs can cause illness and can be easily spread, but washing hands can prevent this.

Teacher Kerry Chappell said: "The health and safety of our pupils is top priority for us.

"Now more than ever we are reminded of the importance of good hygiene in preventing the spread of illnesses among children, so we were pleased that Somerfield Hospital's clean team volunteered their time to provide free training and materials for the children."

During their day at the hospital, the pupils were asked to take part in hygiene training sessions using a special hand gel that mimics germs and glows under ultraviolet (UV) light.

The youngsters were put into groups and one child was asked to spread the germ gel on their hands and shake the hands of their classmates.

The UV tool was then used to show the fake germs had spread from the first pupil to other four group members – leaving the budding clean team "amazed".

But, the hospital workers wanted to teach their group of eager learners to wash the germs off with soap, as it is the best way to make sure the bacteria have all gone.

To reward them for their efforts, the children



**WELL SCRUBBED:** A show of very clean hands from Brunswick House Primary School pupils

were inducted into the hospital's clean team and were asked to sign their names to promise they will continue to wash their hands and teach others.

Ms Chappell said: "The pupils enjoyed the activities and I'm confident they will continue to practise the lessons they've learned on a

daily basis and at home."

Department director Ms Catchpole said: "Our team had a fantastic time teaching the pupils about hand washing and hygiene.

"The pupils were keen to answer questions about germs and competed for the honour of being the person with the cleanest hands."

SEND your schools news and pictures to [yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)

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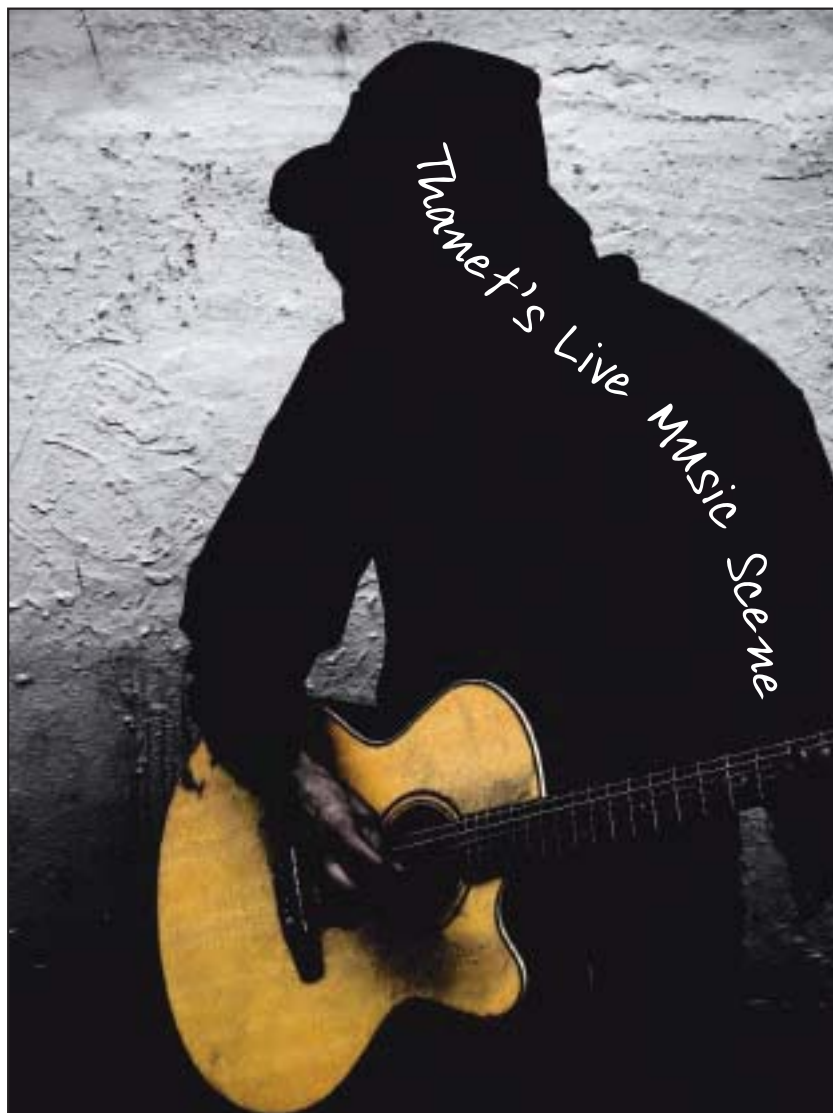
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Saturday 13th March

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### Nearly Famous

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Friday 19th March

### Where's my Thing

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Saturday 20th March

### Salvador Charlie

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,  
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Saturday 20th March

### Werther's Original

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Friday 26th March

### Hazy Shade

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Saturday 27th March

### Left of the dial

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Saturday 27th March

### Lead Gremlin

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
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Saturday 3rd April

### EK1

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,  
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Saturday 3rd April

### Fling

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
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Friday 9th April

### Eyelash Guilt

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## YOUR LETTERS



### Drainage problem is not only Yalding's

At least the village of Yalding seems to have escaped the worst of the flooding which you featured in last week's paper.

A few years ago the village was literally awash every time there were heavy rains and people even sold their houses because they couldn't face the annual flood waters sweeping their possessions into the road.

I understand that new flood controls along the river are responsible so well done to the authorities who approved them and put them in place.

Now, how about improving drainage for the town centre of Maidstone and other villages which have not had this sort of attention paid to them?

Michael Jones, Maidstone



### Economy will need all parties to unite

Your blogger last week was talking about the problems with the economy and there is another factor I would like to bring forward.

That is the threat of a hung parliament which means with no clear political direction confidence in Britain will be at an all-time low.

Recently, looking to convert some pounds into dollars, I was struck by the fact the rate was back somewhere near its level when the pound had a sudden dip in value last year.

This lack of confidence is one thing which will make the UK's economy even slower to drag itself out of recession than it already is.

Already we are running behind our European neighbours and the problem is there for all to see.

## yourblogger

Gary Wright puts his weight behind a 'fat tax' being issued by airlines on obese passengers...



**FAT** people are set to face a cash penalty when they travel as profit-hungry airlines try to cram more people onto flights.

Most of us may agree, but this week tall people came out in support of the overweight.

I fail to see the link. One group of people are unfairly penalised because they have ridiculously long legs and need more space. Not their fault, just genes.

The other group have made a lifestyle choice that means they take up two seats... that's just greedy and inconsiderate to fellow travellers.

Charging porkies more makes sense to me and to the 76 per cent of people who were in favour of a 'Fat Tax' according to travel search website Skyscanner.net.

Cry discrimination all you want, but larders who don't fit standard airline seats should be prepared for heavier ticket prices.

Anyone who has suffered long flights with the person in the next seat flowing over the armrest knows it makes sense. If you choose to pack more than the luggage allowance, you pay more, so I the same rule should apply to excess bingo wings.

But the lure of cheap Sangria and a Mediterranean fry up mean that fatties are not going to roll over and take it (they probably can't).

Lanky Simon James, a 6ft 5ins man from Edinburgh warned that airlines already discriminate against the tall.

He said: "Everyone's talking about 'fat tax', but 'tall

tax' has been around for years. I always request an exit row seat, but there's no guarantee you'll get one. On many budget carriers, I have to pay for the privilege of choosing a seat or boarding first."

Yet in the next breath he seemed to be sticking the same boot in the fleshy behind of fatties as everyone else.

Simon said: "I have sympathy for overweight people, but at least the vast majority of them can lose weight if they choose. Tall people can't get any shorter. People come in all shapes and sizes, and airlines should accommodate us all."

Nice one. 'The vast majority of them can lose weight'...

Many airlines charge a premium for seats with extra leg room, for example Qantas charges an additional \$160 on some flights for an exit aisle seat.

Kevin Smith, famed American film director and actor, was the latest passenger to get involved in the airline 'fat tax' row after he was ejected from a Southwest Airlines flight after his bulk was deemed a 'safety risk'.

If he was between me and the aisle, I'd agree too.

Airlines should just get on with it, fit some bigger seats and charge according to weight and waist measurement.

Of course, there could be a sliding discount: Fat mum sitting between her two kids will still be three seats, she can overflow and they'll be used to the smell.

If you want to save cash flying? Lose a few pounds... well stone.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk).

Surely even self-interested politicians will realise in the event of no party having a clear majority a working compromise which shows the world some sort of stability is vital.

Government of national unity anyone?

Lorna Hancock, Rochester

### County should cash in on a weak pound

Regarding last week's blog – what about holidaying at home?

Last year so-called staycations were all the rage and we were told would provide great boosts to the economy of the UK.

Kent is a tourist area – why are we complaining?

A weak pound also means an influx of visitors from abroad and that is something we should benefit from. After all isn't this county the Gateway to Britain?

Ian Turner, Chatham

### Trains causing the strain on commuters

If Southeastern Trains and the Department for Transport listened to their customers they would appreciate the frustrations we all share on a daily basis simply trying to get to work.

Late trains, dirty carriages, short formed trains and skipping stations are just some of the issues we face

every single day. Never mind the fact we cannot claim compensation as annual season ticket holders.

The sheer volume of signatories on the petition is testament to the feelings of the commuting public and cannot be written off.

John Nicholson, by email

### Tredwell showing England promise

I enjoyed watching England's recent win over Bangladesh in the second one-day international cricket match and although he didn't score runs I thought James Treadwell did a fine job.

As the previous three batsmen had really thrown away their wickets solid support for the man in form – Morgan – was vital.

By just giving him the strike and holding his end up the Kent man did an admirable job.

His bowling was tidy as well and it is about time he was given a chance.

Mark Baldwin, Maidstone

### Making Robin Hood tax a saving grace

More than 600,000 UK children could be lifted out of poverty this year by the introduction of a Robin Hood tax on big banks' financial transactions.

This would mean the Government would meet its target to halve child poverty by 2010 – a goal currently

catastrophically off-track.

The Robin Hood tax is a tiny charge of 0.05 per cent that would be levied on massive deals done daily by global financial institutions – the big banks blamed for the economic crisis – not on high street banks' transactions with their customers.

There are still 2.3 million children living in poverty in the UK.

Recent research by Save the Children has revealed that severe child poverty actually increased by more than a quarter of a million in the four boom years before the recession hit in 2008, and now totals 1.7 million.

As it launches its election manifesto, 'Poverty Kills Childhood', at the House of Lords, Save the Children is calling on politicians from all parties to back the tax, and to make tackling severe child poverty an urgent priority.

The Robin Hood tax is so tiny it would practically make no difference to the big banks making billions every year.

However, the proceeds would utterly transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of children stifled by poverty every year.

UK support for the Robin Hood tax is growing by the day. The campaign is backed by celebrities including Bill Nighy and 'Frank' from Shameless – aka Save the Children ambassador David Threlfall. The Robin Hood tax now has more Facebook fans than all the political parties put together.

The tax could raise as much as £250 billion every year.

It would only cost £4 billion to lift 600,000 children out of poverty this year.

Fergus Drake,

UK programmes director of Save the Children

### Time to check your pension plans

With just four weeks to go until landmark changes to the state pension, residents in Kent are being urged to plan ahead.

Due to major reforms this April, 60,000 more people reaching state pension age in 2010 will get a full basic state pension.

Women reaching state pension age – and there 44,500 women who are aged 55-59 in Kent – are the biggest winners.

Nationally, some 40,000 more women are due the full amount because of changes like the reduction in qualifying years from 39 to 30.

The years men need will also be slashed from 44 to 30 helping 20,000 more get the full payout.

But in the South East more than half (51 per cent) of people approaching retirement admit they have done nothing to plan for their retirement.

A poll by Ipsos MORI shows that of the over 50s in the South East questioned who have looked into their retirement options, just 64 per cent checked how much state pension they will get.

More than a third approaching retirement (38 per cent) say they haven't even discussed their plans with their partner.

To mark the countdown to the pension changes, the Department for Work and Pensions is calling on people approaching retirement to find out the facts.

We are changing the state pension to make it fairer and more generous, so more people are able to build up the full amount.

These days most of us can expect to spend at least 20 years in retirement, so it is important that people understand how these changes affect them and plan ahead so they can get the most out of later life.

To help the younger generations build up a firm foundation for later life, a new National Insurance credit will allow parents and carers to accrue a full basic state pension.

For the first time it will be possible for a carer to do this entirely with credits.

To ensure the system is sustainable for the future, the state pension age for women will gradually rise from 60 to 65 to match men.

In the past, millions of women who chose to stay home and care for family and children have missed out on pension cash in retirement. Next month this will change.

The system will be fairer for women and carers. Nine out of ten women will be able to build up a full basic pension in their own right.

The Department for Work and Pensions is encouraging people to visit [www.direct.gov.uk/pensions](http://www.direct.gov.uk/pensions) or call 0800 678 1132 for more information on planning for later life.

Angela Eagle, Minister of State for Pensions and Ageing Society



# WWII fighter pilot recalls time turban saved his life

■ BY NICK AMES

AS THE 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain approaches, a Sikh fighter pilot has told how his life was saved by the padding in his turban after he was forced to crash-land his aircraft near Dover.

Squadron Leader Mohinder Singh Pujji, one of the few Indian ace flyers in the RAF, crashed-landed after his plane was badly damaged in a mid-air skirmish.

But he managed to get his Hurricane down in one piece and the young flyer crash-landed near the White Cliffs of Dover, where rescuers pulled him from the wreckage, suffering from a bad head injury.

Sqdn Ldr Pujji, now 91, said his specially-adapted turban headgear – a requisite of his religion – even had his RAF wings sewn onto it. The turban acted as a cushion during the crash-landing, almost certainly preventing the young flyer's death.

He told of his daring wartime exploits ahead of the publication of his memoirs – *For King And Another Country* – later this year.

The RAF ace said: "The padding of my turban saved me. It was full of blood. I was taken to hospital, but after seven days was back to flying again."

"In the fight a German bullet smashed into my dashboard and all my instruments were



SHOT: Sqdn Ldr Pujji took part in the Battle of Britain

gone. I radioed for directions back to the nearest landing strip. I could see the English Channel beneath – I really didn't want to bail out. I could see the White Cliffs and thought I would make it – then the landing strip appeared, with fire engines around it.

"But as I put my landing gear down, fire took hold of the plane. Blood was pouring from my head, but the six feet of wound cloth of my turban saved me from worse impact injuries. People say, 'you claim this as you are a religious man', but I really think it was the case. The aircraft was a total wreck."

Sqdn Ldr Pujji's turban was fitted so the earphones could go over the top – and he even carried a spare in his cockpit.

He said: "The Nazis created havoc. That's why I felt I was fighting a just cause. I knew why war broke out and who Hitler was."

"Britain went to war to save Europe and I went to war for Britain. I saw the people here and had admiration for them."

Sqdn Ldr Pujji is surrounded by wartime memorabilia at his home in Gravesend.

He signed up for military duty after responding to an advert declaring: 'Pilots needed for RAF' in an Indian newspaper.

After learning to fly in 1937, he was one of only eight pilots from the Empire colony deemed good enough for fighter duties.

Arriving in August, 1940, at the height of the Battle of Britain, the young officer flew countless missions against the Luftwaffe as they flew sorties across southern England.

He had another lucky escape when he was shot down by ground fire from Rommel's Afrika Korps in the western desert.

He said: "I didn't know what to do. I sat on top of my plane and after a while saw a cloud of dust. I didn't mind who was picking me up, Germany or Britain. I started waving my shirt and luckily it was the British."

In all Sqdn Ldr Pujji saw action in five theatres of war – Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Palestine and Asia. He is the only man to hold that distinction.

After the war he resumed his career with Shell Oil before running an aerodrome for the Indian government.

Sqdn Ldr Pujji, who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery, made headlines last year after campaigning against the BNP. He was angered by party leader Nick Griffin's use of the wartime Spitfire to symbolise Britishness.

## New credit union launched to tackle loan sharks threat

A COUNTYWIDE credit union providing a safer alternative to loan sharks has finally been launched more than four months later than originally forecast.

Kent Savers has been ready to begin trading since the end of October, but has only just been given the green light by the Financial Services Authority, which has been accused of being overly cautious in the wake of the recession.

The union – which is a non-profit making body offering loans of between £500-5,000 – was officially launched at the Little Pebbles children's centre in Gravesend, last week.

Chief officer John Fowler said the location was specifically chosen to show families on low incomes that there is an alternative to borrowing money from loan sharks.

Earlier this year Kent Trading Standards revealed it had failed to secure a single loan shark conviction in the previous 12 months, blaming it on borrowers being too scared to come forward and give evidence.

Such lenders often charge exorbitant interest rates but the new credit union – which operates out of Gravesend's Old Town Hall, but is accessible throughout the county – offers a fixed rate interest of 27 per cent.

The union is targeted at residents who cannot guarantee earnings or have no equity, and has been set up at a cost of £750,000.

A third of that figure was supplied by Kent County Council.

Residents will be able to access the Kent Savers union at one of the county's seven Gateways – in Ashford, Dover, Maidstone, Tenterden, Margate, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. Visit [www.kentsavers.co.uk](http://www.kentsavers.co.uk) or call 0300 456 9990 for more information.

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# your lifestyle

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# carsfor Kent.co.uk



# Stars join forces in real-life story of father who saved his kids' lives

■ BY KATE WHITING

THE hardest thing for any parent is to see their children suffer.

John Crowley and his wife Aileen were devastated when they learned that two of their three children suffered from Pompe disease, a rare genetic illness that would kill them.

Rather than give in to despair, they made a pact: Aileen would look after the children and John would quit his job as a financial consultant to find a cure.

With no experience in medicine, John met scientists and researchers, raised millions of dollars and set up his own pharmaceutical company to produce an enzyme that would help his children.

Harrison Ford read an article about the Crowleys in the Wall Street Journal and the film is based on Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Geeta Anand's book *The Cure: How A Father Raised \$100 Million – And Bucked The Medical Establishment – In A Quest To Save His Children*.

"I thought Geeta's book had something to say about personal courage, initiative, parents' love and the power to overcome extraordinarily difficult circumstances," says Ford.

Ford, also an executive producer on the film, chose Crash star Brendan Fraser to play John Crowley.

While the film compresses six years of strife into just 100 minutes, and the myriad scientists who helped Crowley are represented by one fictional character, Dr Robert Stonehill (Ford), the real-life story of Crowley's efforts is much more complicated.

Once he'd set up his biotech company and developed an enzyme that showed potential, Crowley sold his firm to Genzyme Corp for more than \$100m so the larger company could get the drug tested and into production.

But his children Megan, then five, and his youngest son Patrick were deemed too old to be tested in the first round of trials. As they got steadily weaker Crowley tried everything to



**WORKING TOGETHER:** Harrison Ford and Brendan Fraser as Dr Robert Stonehill and John Crowley

get them on to the drug. He secretly approached a hospital about conducting a 'sibling trial', which would show how children responded differently to treatment.

But when Genzyme found out, they refused to deliver the drug for the trial because Crowley worked for the company.

Brendan Fraser, 41, who has three sons, says he understood how John Crowley felt.

"When you're a parent you can't deny the instinct to do whatever you can to ensure your children's health and wellbeing and, in this case, to see that they stay alive.

"It's poignant that Crowley took a great deal

of satisfaction in telling his daughter that she gets a shot at being an old lady.

"Before, this heart-breaking disease took the lives of kids who usually didn't make it past the age of eight. But through the efforts of John and this team of scientists, doctors, researchers and investors that he galvanised around him, he saved his kids' lives."

Fraser admits he felt an "obligation to embody who John is" on screen, both his stoicism and his humanity.

"He is the one of the most principled individuals I've ever met," he says. "But at the same time I had to allow him to be someone who the

audience can identify with, not just a superhero dad."

Both actors admit the experience has made them value their own children more. Ford, who has five children and three grandchildren, believes parenting improves with age.

"There's nothing like the company of young kids to keep you on your toes and remind you of the pleasure of learning. It's exciting to be around them."

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**NEWS BUBBLE:** David Mitchell feeds celebrities real and concocted stories



**YOUR TV REVIEW**

**THE BUBBLE:** BBC2 10pm, Friday  
**FILM 2010 WITH JONATHAN ROSS:** BBC1, 11.35pm Tuesday

THE world didn't really need another panel-based show.

We have *Mock the Week*, *8 Out Of 10 Cats*, *Buzzcocks* and a load more which I've either missed or am too lazy to list.

But with *The Bubble*, the BBC has at least deviated from the well-worn and often boring route.

Presented by David Mitchell, who for me is one of the most original comedy thinkers in the country, the show sees three celebrities voluntarily step into a 'news bubble' for a few days.

This involves cutting themselves off from the stories that are filling the newspapers, internet and TV.

Mitchell then feeds them stories, most of which are totally made up, to sift through and decide which are real and which are piffle.

It's a little like *Call My Bluff*,

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

minus the blue-rinsed duffers, and is actually pretty good.

It's amazing to see the stories that the guests deem to be real, but the world is a crazy place and it goes to show that you never quite know what bizarre stories will crop up.

WHEN Jonathan Ross walks away from the BBC, it will leave a gaping hole in its radio and TV schedules.

Personally I think it's a good thing that his Friday night chat beast is lying down to die.

This is not America, where the chat show is king and hosts such as Leno and Letterman sit in their chairs for decades on end.

It seems to have run its course here and Ross talked more about himself

than the guests anyway, which kind of defeated the point.

However, Wossy as host of the *Film...* series, once the kingdom of Barry "and why not?" Norman, is a much better broadcaster.

He knows his stuff and has never been afraid to speak his mind, which must be a tricky task when many of the stars of the latest films turn up on his chat show.

I hope the Beeb will continue this show, which is something of an institution, having run since 1971.

Ross's knowledge of quirky cinema will especially be missed, as will the short *Inside Hollywood* features, widely praised by film fans.

An ideal replacement for Ross would be Mark Kermode, probably the nation's best-known film critic, but whether he could pull it off is another matter.





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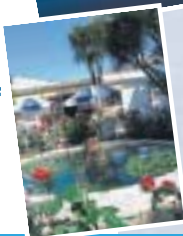
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## LIVE & LOCAL

### Make a date with jazz

ENJOY live jazz with the Donn Barcott Band in Gillingham on Thursday.

The band performs at the 44Two Club in Featherby Road on the second Thursday of each month, starting at 8.30pm and finishing at 11pm.

Refreshments are available. For more information call the Jazz Line on 01634 405037.

### Club staff good sports

CLUBBERS can help raise money for Sport Relief by having a good time at Liquid and Envy in Maidstone.

The club is holding a fundraiser on Friday and the staff plan to show they are good sports during the night.

The event starts at 9.30am and tickets cost £4 online or £5.50 at the door. Visit [www.liquidclubs.com/maidstone](http://www.liquidclubs.com/maidstone).

### Youth take on classics

YOUNG actors bring two of Shakespeare's best-loved works to the stage in Chatham next week.

Members of the Brook Youth Theatre star in abridged versions of *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at 7.30pm next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tickets are £5 from [www.thebrooktheatre.co.uk](http://www.thebrooktheatre.co.uk) or call 01634 338338.

### Treat mum to a brew

TREAT your mum to a delicious day out at the Shepherd Neame brewery in Faversham this Mother's Day.

On Sunday Britain's oldest brewer is offering lunch in the 15th century function room for £22.50 per person, or lunch, a brewery tour and tutored tasting for £32.50. To book call 01795 542016 or visit [www.shepherdneame.co.uk](http://www.shepherdneame.co.uk).

### Acoustic night at pub

DISCOVER acoustic talent at a new live music event in Rochester tonight.

Ye Arrow in Boley Hill hosts *All About the Music* at 7.30pm, featuring Chatham's Hands Shaped Like Hearts, Leeds-based guitar virtuoso John Gomm and singer-songwriter Dominic Wise.

Tickets cost £5 in advance or £6 on the door. To book, call 01634 338338.

### Your chance of Fame

YOUNG performers are invited to take part in the Orchard Theatre's first annual summer project, *Fame*.

Singers, actors and dancers aged from nine to 19 can apply to audition for a role in the hit musical.

Application forms are available online at [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk) and auditions are on Sunday, March 28.

### Rock 'n' roll with Ricky

ROCK 'n' roll the night away in the company of 50s and 60s tribute act, Ricky Fontayne.

More information about the performer can be found at [www.rickyfontayne.com](http://www.rickyfontayne.com). He will be appearing at the Royal British Legion in Parkwood, Maidstone, at 8.45pm on Saturday. For details call Nevill or Chris on 01622 763847.

# Top DJs to give clubbers a treat

## PETE TONG AND NIC FANCIULLI

Friday, March 12  
The Source Bar, Maidstone



A LEGEND of the dance world joins one of the scene's brightest rising stars for a night of unstoppable tunes this week.

DJ Pete Tong is an iconic figure in Clubland and remains at the top of his game, 30 years after his first radio appearances.

His Friday night show on BBC Radio 1 is still considered 'the official start to the weekend' and clubbers can experience his skill and discerning taste firsthand when he returns to his home county on Friday.

Also appearing is Maidstone's own Nic Fanciulli, hitting the decks in his home town for the first time this year. With Mark Fanciulli opening the night, which goes on until 4am, this is an unmissable party for fans of great dance music.

### High-profile

Saved Records – run by Nic Fanciulli – welcomes Tong to the county town as part of his UK tour and the high-profile event highlights the label's continuing success.

Born in Hartley, Tong got involved in the vibrant Kent music scene of the 70s and 80s and played a key role in establishing an exciting circuit around the South East. While attending King's School in Rochester, he spotted a DJ at a school concert and immediately his dreams of playing in a heavy metal band faded away.

From that moment on, he was determined to pursue a career on the decks and later had a fantastic time supporting the regional music scene. In the late 70s he joined *Blues & Soul Magazine* as a writer, before becoming an A&R manager for London Records, which brought him into contact with the new house music sound emerging from the US.

Already having made appearances on *Invicta*, he went on to broadcast on BBC Radio Medway and Capital Radio. Tong's first brushes with national fame occurred when he started to appear on Radio 1 to talk about dance music in the early 80s, before landing his own soul show on *Invicta*. The turn of the decade marked the start of a new era in radio history, as Tong began his tenure at Radio 1 with his *Essential Selection*.

Now known as simply Pete Tong, the show is still the place to hear and be heard, nearly 20 years later.

Last year he was joined by a number of top guests at his weekly *Wonderland* event at Eden in Ibiza, including Lady Gaga and Fatboy Slim. He spent much of the year touring all over the world but also found time to remix tracks by U2, Underworld and Cheryl Cole, while also acting as music supervisor for the British film *Harry Brown*, starring Michael Caine.

Dance legends Pete Tong and Nic Fanciulli combine their talents for a great night out



From his early days as a shy music fan trying to break into the local scene, Nic Fanciulli has become a globe-trotting professional. Now well on his way to becoming a superstar DJ, Fanciulli was given his break by Maidstone institution ClubClass and he remains committed to the club night, having also enjoyed residencies in Miami, Ibiza and London's Ministry of Sound.

His production and remix work with Andy Chatterley, under Skylark and the Buick Project, has resulted in a Grammy nomination and remixes of tracks by Underworld, Deep Dish and Kylie Minogue.

Clubbers should not miss this chance to see two of the dance world's greatest talents performing at the same venue in Kent. The event starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12, plus booking fee.

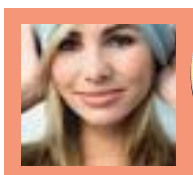
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## WOMEN seeking men

**ARE YOU HER MAN OF THE MATCH?** Fun-to-be-with, football-loving, blonde female, 25, 5'2", enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

**THE ART OF THE MATTER** 27-year-old female, 5'8", medium-curved build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, W/LTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

**STEP UP TO THE OCHE WITH ME!** Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5'11", loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

**SOUND GOOD?** Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, yoga, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984

**FANCY A CUDDLE?** Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5'13", slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326

**COULD I BE THE ONE?** Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835

**HORSES FOR COURSES...** Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

**SHREK'S APPEAL!** Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek, 5'8", short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

**SIDE BY SIDE** Active lady, 35, short brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes reading, swimming, walks, cinema, pubs, seeking a similar man, honest, and loving. Gillingham Box 466833

**HAPPY DAYS!** Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 309734

**FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...** Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5'3", shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

**SEALED WITH A KISS** Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wiring and dining, laughing, seeks loyal loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

**GROW OLD WITH ME** Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164

**LOVE TO LOVE YOU** Lovely female, 36, 5'4", medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

**PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE** Mum of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440893

**MAGIC IN MARGATE** Loving female, 36, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

**DON'T LET ME DOWN** Pretty, black female, 38, 5'4", like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446884

**FAMILY ORIENTATED** Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5'8", slim/medium build, I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

## CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

**SHOW ME HEAVEN** Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, W/LTM a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608

**FROM ME TO YOU** Lonely and bored single professional Asian lady, 40, seeks genuine single solvent professional white male, 40-50, for companionship and more. Tunbridge Wells. Box 464925

**FOR A RELATIONSHIP?** Shy but confident-one known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106



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**TLC ON OFFER** Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, watching DVDs, w/lrm like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271

**CALL ME** Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells, I'm easygoing and fun loving and W/LTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481

**ANOTHER CHAPTER** Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with, Sittingbourne. Box 461037

**DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?** Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5'8", dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5'9-9. Box 461129

**LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL** Good-looking brunet from Kent, 43, 5'10", likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 453048

**I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY** Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, good looking for a man with no issues and gosh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204

**NEW TO THIS** Attractive single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5'11", medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals, W/LTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 855182

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**BE MY FRIEND AND PARTNER** Hi there, I'm female, 43, 5'6", medium build, long dark hair/green eyes, enjoys cinema, eating out etc and W/LTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612

**FIT THE BILL?** Fit and healthy woman, average build. I'm 44, young looking and love animals. I would love to meet a sincere fella to spend time with. Maidstone. Box 466419

**SWEET AS HONEY** Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465

**HOW YOU DOING?** Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459126

**MUST MAKE ME LAUGH!** Young mid 40's female, looking to meet a genuine single male for friendship and eventual long term relationship. Rochester. Box 855449

**GENUINE REPLIES ONLY** Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

**COME ON OVER** Fun-loving gal, 47, dark hair/eyes, attractive, looking for a similar male to enjoy nights out and good conversation. Gillingham Box 454480

**POSSIBLE LTR** African lady, full figured and radiant! I'm a Christian, 46, 5'8", attractive, caring and intelligent and enjoy jazz, travel, theatre, W/LTM decent, white male, Gillingham. Box 466617

**NOTHING VENTURED...** Humble lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286

**YOUNG AT HEART** Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

**A REAL DIAMOND** African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury Box 460999

**ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL** Young-looking 46yr old female, 5'4", slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5'10", to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938

**ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?** Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

**HELP ME OPEN UP** Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444595

**ETERNALLY YOURS** Easygoing woman, likes most things in life, country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5'2", medium build, W/LTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635

**NORMAL GAL** Female, 48, divorced and happy, 5'17, looking for genuine man, laughter, sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 49 and over 30 a must. Maidstone. Box 866380

**DREAM LOVER** Petite blonde, young 49, loving, caring, enjoy music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Rochester. Box 854822

**MAKE IT ENJOYABLE** Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460886

**ANY TAKERS?** Divorced single mum, 49, 5'4", animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford Box 464557

**BY MY SIDE** Curvy woman, 49, 5'10, enjoys being by the sea, music, walks, meals out, cinema, cross-walks, and reading. Seeking kind, caring man in the Maidstone area. Box 466608

**ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING?** Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5'15, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea; W/LTM tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240

**DREAMS OF YOU** Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566

**LOTS OF HUGS** Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5'4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe, enjoys art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002

**SAY YES!** Brighton lass, 61, 5'12, blonde, blue eyes, separated, likes going for drinks and socialising, 60's music and going to the theatre. Looking for a like-minded gent. Box 466107

**LOVELY BUBBLY** Short 5'1yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with GSOH to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

**MEANT TO BE?** Very honest, reliable and trustworthy person, 52, 5'17, blonde with blue eyes, loves cinema, meals out and nights out, seeking sociable male with same interests. Ashford. Box 466150

**CARING & PROFESSIONAL** Female 49, 5'4", long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100

**A HIGHER LOVE** Looking for that special person, I'm a genuine lady, 54 but don't feel I'd like to meet someone to love and care for. Canterbury. Box 875551

**IT COULD BE US** Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5'10, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601

**YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...** Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

**DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?** Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

**LIFE IS GOOD!** Slim, attractive lady, 65, enjoy outdoors pursuits, dog walking, socialising and music, lots of time and life to give to the right person. Maidstone. Box 466636

## Women seeking women

**TRUE ROMANCE** Fun loving lady, honest, sincere and trust-worthy, 41yrs old and looking for fun, maybe romance with an honest, sincere woman, likes nights in/out etc. Whitstable. Box 464494

**TAKE A CHANCE** Honest female, 43, 5'2, medium build, fun-loving, likes clubs, pubs, eating out, nights in, looking for a female for friendship to start, hopefully a LTR. Rochester. Box 466078

**FOLLOW YOUR HEART** Quiet sincere lady, 55, animal lover, likes history, reading, gardening and countryside, seeks lady with similar interests. Rochester. Box 465922

**REPLY to an ad, call: 0905 211 0651**  
(Calls cost £1.20/min; contact your service provider for details)

**REPLY by Text**

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

**LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!** Smart petite lady, 56, 5'4", tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

**SMART MOVE** Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading hopefully more. Box 430854

**MUSIC TO MY EARS** Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for a slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914

**WALKS ALONG THE COAST** Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

**PISCES OR CAPRICORN?** Star-struck lady, 59, 5'3", medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea; W/LTM tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240

**DREAMS OF YOU** Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566

**LOTS OF HUGS** Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5'4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe, enjoys art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002

**SAY YES!** Brighton lass, 61, 5'12, blonde, blue eyes, separated, likes going for drinks and socialising, 60's music and going to the theatre. Looking for a like-minded gent. Box 466107

**SIMPLE PLEASURES** Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build, loves dancing, walking by the sea and W/LTM like minded gent. Box 469467

**THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE** 53yr old young-at-heart, loving woman, I am hoping to meet a kind-spirited who loves animals, going for walks and the romantic side of life. Box 900143

**BRIGHTENING UP** Cuddly lady, 61, 5'5", blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. W/LTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214

**BE YOURSELF** Outgoing lady, 49, 5'8", tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760

**LOVE ME DO** Loving and caring lady, 63, 5'13, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082

**QUALITY TIME** Widow, early 60s, likes dancing, drinks, gardening, socialising, and walks, seeking good gent. Ramsgate. Box 460872

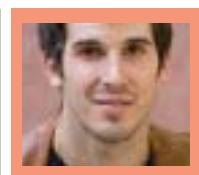
**SOMEBODY TO LAUGH WITH...** Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5'13, medium build, brown hair/eyes, likes dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 464382

**LIFE IS GOOD!** Slim, attractive lady, 65, enjoy outdoors pursuits, dog walking, socialising and music, lots of time and life to give to the right person. Maidstone. Box 466636

**ETERNAL FLAME** Nick, 41, 6'11", slim, dark hair/blue eyes, likes cinema, country pubs and socialising with friends, looking for a kind, caring and considerate female, 35-45. Box 450339

**SENTIMENTAL ROMANTIC** Hi I'm Kevin, 43, kind and down-to-earth, 5'10, short hair, piercings, young looking, smart, love family life and socialising, seeking lady for quiet nights in. Box 452104

**BIG ATTRACTIVE GUY** Gillingham male, 43, 6'12, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soulmate. Box 465158



## MEN seeking women

**NEW IN TOWN** 6'12in, dark hair, brown eyes, fun to be around, 19, like going for a drink or two also staying in and watching whatever is on. Box 854602

**TAKE A CHANCE** Happy-go-lucky guy, 30, slim, brown hair/green eyes, likes rock music, gigs and pubs, looking for a female, 35-50, for good times and possible LTR. Box 466789

**BOTTLE OF WINE** Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5'10", medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

**MAKE ME SMILE AGAIN** Seeking genuine lady, I'm a 38yr old male, 5'8", dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 449649

**THE GOOD LIFE** Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together, with the right woman. Box 858113

**LOVE TO LAUGH** Looking for a down to earth green eyed lady. Must have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH... Hastings. Box 862208

**FORECAST?** 38yr old male with brown hair, big smile, big heart, and big personality seeks caring and affectionate lady for love in all weather. Box 434270

**THE TIME IS NOW** Single parent, 40, 6'11", short dark hair, brown eyes, caring, considering, looking for lady for LTR and who's up for a laugh. Maidstone. Box 459005

**LOOK IN MY EYES** Romantic, fun-loving man, 40, 6'11", tall, with dark hair and brown eyes, looking for a kind, considerate and romantic female. Maidstone. Box 459006

**HAPPY GO LUCKY** Stocky, 5'17 male, 40, green-blue eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love swimming, walks on beaches, days out; seeking similar female for loving times. Box 455764

**NEW IN TOWN** Good-looking male, 39, fair hair, blue eyes, nice build and height, social, likes holidays, dining out, fit, seeking a woman to go out with. Rochester. Box 460825

**FISHING & CAMPING!** Fun-loving male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333

**MAKE YOUR MARK** Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5'8", brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, W/LTM some authority and caring. Box 448372

**LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR** Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Margate. Box 443750

**JUST SMILE!** Outgoing guy, fun to be with, I'm 42, a non-drinker, and would like to meet a similar lady in the Hythe area. Box 466462

**ETERNAL FLAME** Nick, 41, 6'11", slim, dark hair/blue eyes, likes cinema, country pubs and socialising with friends, looking for a kind, caring and considerate female, 35-45. Box 450339

**SENTIMENTAL ROMANTIC** Hi I'm Kevin, 43, kind and down-to-earth, 5'10, short hair, piercings, young looking, smart, love family life and socialising, seeking lady for quiet nights in. Box 452104

**BIG ATTRACTIVE GUY** Gillingham male, 43, 6'12, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soulmate. Box 465158

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Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm, Mon to Fri | Email: [louise@gwave.co.uk](mailto:louise@gwave.co.uk) (Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)

**GOOD LOOKING BLOKE** Tall man medium build, 44, 5'10, brown hair/eyes, with an outgoing nature, looking for a female similar to myself with long hair. Box 871274

**WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD** Sincere guy, 45, 6'11", slim, likes clubs, pubs, bowling, cinema, meals out, looking for a slim female for a stable relationship. Gillingham. Box 462529

**ALONG THE SHORE** Romantic male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 34-56. Ashford. Box 466863

**A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE!** Single guy looking for love, 45, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", medium build, very caring and loving, likes holidays and theatre, seeks loving lady. Ashford. Box 466131

**HONEST KID**, caring and loving 44yr old man, slim, 5'11", dark hair/eyes, love walking, music, looking for black lady, no ties, 25-45, for a LTR. Maidstone. Box 453980

**WITTY ACTIVE**, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things, seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508

**TRY ANYTHING ONCE** Tall chap, 44, medium build. Interests: walking, reading, swimming. I would love to meet a nice, honest and caring lady. Box 444566

**FAMILY LIFE** Happy-go-lucky dad, 46, sporty, keeps in good shape, own place, looking for an honest person to get to know well, possibly for relationship. Box 452446

**THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT** Single dad, 47, enjoy most things in life, likes music, DVDs and football, looking for a fun-loving female for a happy romance. Brighton. Box 466460

**ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS** Single guy, 47, 5'8", been hurt in the past, works full time, looking for a Sussex-based lady to share life with. Kids not problem. Box 466082

**TRUE AND HONEST** Genuine, caring, 47yr old man, 5'9", average build, clean-shaven, short, mousey hair, looking for possible LTR with fun woman who like a good laugh. Sheerness. Box 465950

**HOLDING HANDS** Sincere male, 47, 5'10, short hair, green eyes, likes swimming, walking, my dog looking for someone a loving woman for LTR. Hastings. Box 456438



# yourleisure

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Email [jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk)



## COME TOGETHER

Friday, March 12. Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone



ENJOY an evening of incomparable music as two of the greatest bands in history Come Together.

Two fantastic tribute groups will take fans back to a golden era of British music this week, as the Counterfeit Beatles and Not The Rolling Stones share the bill.

Liam Gallagher is a fan of the Counterfeit Beatles, so get ready to Twist and Shout as the work of Lennon, McCartney and friends is performed live.

With their charismatic front man Mick Jagger, the Stones became the epitome of cool rock

'n' roll. Over their long career, the band has shown it will Not Fade Away and fans will certainly get some Satisfaction at Friday's concert. Not The Rolling Stones are fronted by an uncanny Jagger lookalike, who appeared in the BBC series Double Take, and captures all the star's swagger and style. Music fans should not miss the opportunity to revisit two superb back catalogues.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £14/£13. Book online at [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01622 758611.



## THE DRIFTERS

Thursday, March 11. Central Theatre, Chatham



THE Drifters take a break from their national arena tour to perform for a Medway audience this week.

One of the longest-serving bands in history will be starting their national tour at the weekend, performing for massive crowds along with The Temptations, The Four Tops and The Three Degrees.

But on Thursday the group will be singing their greatest hits for fans in Chatham, in a two-hour celebration of this iconic band.

There have been many line-up changes over the years and during the last six decades, The

Drifters have sold more than 200 million singles worldwide. With more than 50 hits to their name, on Sunday they hope to add to the list with the release of Do You Dream Of Me, their first official single in 30 years.

Fans can look forward to hearing many of their best-loved hits, such as Saturday Night at the Movies, Under The Boardwalk, Come On Over To My Place and Kissing In The Back Row of The Movies.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £20/£18.50. Book online at [www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk](http://www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01634 338338.

## THE MAGNIFICENT FLYING MACHINE

Sunday, March 14. Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne



FLY up, up and away when a wonderful family adventure swoops into Swale this weekend.

Anyone who has ever dreamed of having wings and flying away above the clouds will love The Magnificent Flying Machine, a magical production for ages four and above.

Professor Bix Horn sets out on a wacky adventure as he flies by the seat of his pants, trying to build a flying machine using an unlikely assortment of items. He is desperate to capture the beautiful Harpy Bird, but will the Professor manage to chase it into the sky or will it fly out of his reach?

Using images, puppetry, movement and live music, Garlic Theatre provides a great introduction to theatre, while challenging, entertaining and stimulating children. The show is sure to encourage imaginative play and open children's eyes to the wonder of puppet animation.

The performance starts at 3pm and admission costs £5/£3.50 or £15 for families. To book call the box office on 01795 471140 or email [admin@avenuetheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@avenuetheatre.co.uk). The show is part of Applause Rural Touring's current season.



## CIRCUS OF HORRORS DAY OF THE DEAD

Tuesday, March 16. Orchard Theatre, Dartford



VENTURE into a dark and shocking world as Circus of Horrors returns with its jaw-dropping new show.

The Day of the Dead is a 'Mexican X-travaganza' that sees the incredible cast running amok in the country in the early 1900s. Following the success of The Asylum, this new production is sure to terrify and thrill audiences in equal measure.

A motley crew of voodoo acrobats, pickled people, bendy bodies and flying vampires transport the body of their leader, Doktor Haze, to a ruined Aztec temple in the hope of reviving him. But when the ringmaster is brought back to life, disastrous consequences must be faced in this grotesque and gripping show.

Doktor Haze leads the audience on a hellish tale, with the help of a revived devil and live rock 'n' roll from The Interceptors of Hell. Some of the world's most bizarre circus acts demonstrate their remarkable skills in this blood-curdling adventure.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets are priced from £10 to £24.50, group rates available. Book online at [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01322 220000.



## THE RIDDLE OF THE SANDS

Various dates, various venues



ENTER a world of suspense and espionage in the gripping play, The Riddle of the Sands.

Prior to a London run, Chalkfoot Theatre Arts is touring this thriller to a number of small venues across Kent once again.

The exciting adaptation of Erskine Childers' Edwardian book, considered to be the forerunner of the modern spy novel, was made into a popular film starring Jenny Agutter and Michael York.

With two actors playing a variety of diverse characters, the play offers suspense, adventure and tongue-in-cheek humour. Set just before the outbreak of the First World War, the show sees two young men set out on a yachting expedition that turns into a dangerous spying mission.

The show can be seen at Teynham Community Hall at 3pm on Sunday; Rodmersham Village Hall at 8pm on Saturday, March 20 and the Blue Town Heritage Centre in Sheerness at 7.30pm on Wednesday, March 24.

Tickets cost £8/£7 in advance or £9/£8 on the door.

Box office details vary for each venue, so visit [www.chalkfoot.org.uk](http://www.chalkfoot.org.uk) or call 01843 280077 for more information.





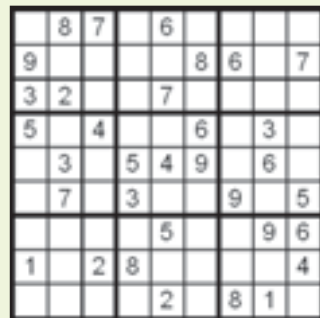
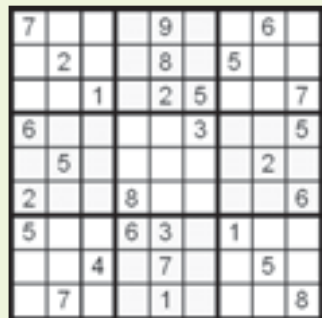
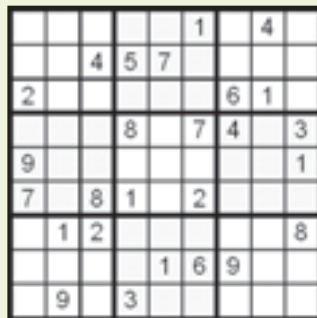
# yourtimeout

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### CRYPTIC CLUES

**ACROSS**

- 1 First two questioning priest about making witty remarks (8)  
 6 Make known it hasn't been provided by end of May (6)  
 9 Continue performing during the drama (4,2)  
 10 Senior pupil starts yelling giving warning (8)  
 11 Extremely clerical dean (4,8)  
 13 Contest simply about nothing (5)  
 14 24 hours for one side of Sheffield (9)  
 17 Drafee, he could have been covered in plumage (9)  
 19 Cheerless half of Dickens' work (5)  
 21 Seat in Berkshire? (7,5)  
 24 Some archaic handle restored by general dealer (8)  
 25 Some cheap rewards before 1939 (3,3)  
 26 Mate will finish after Friday (6)  
 27 Taking leisurely walk to Erica outside day by day (8)

**DOWN**

- 2 Unattractive sort of customer? (4)  
 3 Convenience call? (3,1,5)  
 4 Holding five pairs above river (6)  
 5 Compunction concerning code (7)  
 6 It isn't happening to be a disappointing occurrence (3,5)  
 7 T-tour arranged by teacher (5)  
 8 By a considerable margin at a distance (3,3,4)  
 12 Alluring invitation to approach (4,6)  
 15 Thus left coming from cellar with something for converting sunlight into electrical power (5,4)  
 16 Snake in the grass jerked back (8)  
 18 Do not include Rex in selected passage (7)  
 20 Went speedily having moved from channel to channel (6)  
 22 See 23  
 23 & 22 Steps on granary floor (4,5)

### QUICK CLUES

**ACROSS**

- 1 Vain boaster (8)  
 6 Bent (6)  
 9 Predicament (6)  
 10 War memorial (8)  
 11 Speechless (4,3,5)  
 13 \_\_\_-diving (5)  
 14 Numerousness (9)  
 17 Nearness (9)  
 19 Appreciate (5)  
 21 Very (12)  
 24 Fairly large (8)  
 25 Malfunction (6)  
 26 Sound of a hen (6)  
 27 Albert \_\_\_, US physicist (8)

**DOWN**

- 2 Regulation (4)  
 3 TV (slang) (6,3)  
 4 Bear witness (6)  
 5 Diplomatic (7)  
 6 Perverse (8)  
 7 Quotient (5)  
 8 Trek (10)  
 12 Scarlet fever (10)  
 15 Wheeled boat (4,5)  
 16 Email cab (anag.) (8)  
 18 Colourless hydrocarbon (7)  
 20 Mischievous child (6)  
 22 Twitch (5)  
 23 Je ne sais \_\_\_ (4)

## YOUR HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT


**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A **NARROW**-minded authority figure is making life miserable. You're tired of hearing their sermons. Unfortunately, you're not in the position to tell them to shut up. Fortunately, a dynamic friend or business partner is poised to rescue you from this stifling situation.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762


**ARIES** (Mar 21-Apr 20)

A **CLOSE** relationship is suffering because of your critical attitude. You need to be more encouraging, especially of your loved one's plans. Deep down inside, you may think this idea is doomed, but that's just because your pessimistic attitude has clouded your vision.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752


**GEMINI** (May 22-Jun 22)

IT'S hard to feel romantic when you're overwhelmed with responsibilities. If you're in a relationship, beware of neglecting your partner. The two of you need to go away together. You don't have to spend a lot of money to enjoy yourself, but you should choose a destination with privacy.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754


**LEO** (Jul 24-Aug 23)

**NEGATIVE** thinking is driving opportunity from your door. Stop assuming the deck is stacked against you. If you encounter a cloud, look for its silver lining. A down in the dumps workmate makes your job difficult. Maybe you should just start work without asking them.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756


**LIBRA** (Sep 24-Oct 23)

IT'S hard to know who to trust these days. You're tired of being crossed by an opportunist. Keeping your own counsel is safe, but not satisfying. You're the type who wants to share your life with someone special. Unfortunately, family life feels unstable.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758


**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23-Dec 21)

IT feels like a friend has an ulterior motive for being so kind. Trust your instincts; they won't steer you wrong. Writing your pal a letter of recommendation will backfire. You can't afford to risk your reputation on an irresponsible character like this.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760


**PISCES** (Feb 20-Mar 20)

A **HEAVY** tax burden forces you to change the way you earn, save and spend money. If you're out of your depth with this situation consult a money manager. An exclusive club is getting a little burdensome. You're tired of adhering to oppressive rules and regulations.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763


**TAURUS** (Apr 21-May 21)

**YOU** don't have the energy you normally do. On the plus side, your family is poised to relieve you of some exhausting chores. Don't look this gift horse in the mouth. An overbearing supervisor thinks you're trying to shirk your duties. Keep a low profile and try to stay out of their way.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753


**CANCER** (Jun 23-Jul 23)

**YOU** feel pretty reclusive, seeking to avoid the pressures of public life. Unfortunately, burying your head in the sand won't solve your problems. This will only compound them. Confront the person who has been pushing you around. You're tired of being treated this way.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755


**VIRGO** (Aug 24-Sep 23)

**SELFISHNESS** is driving a wedge between you and a loved one. You feel like your friend throws your hard-earned money down the drain. Maybe the best way around your problems is to have separate accounts. Then the rest of your money can be spent in a discretionary fashion.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757


**SCORPIO** (Oct 24-Nov 22)

A **LARGE** institution makes it difficult for you to do what you please. For the time being, you need to play by some pretty strict rules. It won't be possible to find a new job in this economy, so you'll just have to grin and bear it. Fortunately, your boss is thinking about giving you a raise.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759


**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan 20)

**THE** job security you crave is elusive. No matter how hard you try, you just can't seem to break through the glass ceiling. Part of the problem is an attitude of entitlement. Just because you have a lot of training and experience doesn't mean you are a shoo-in for a particular position.

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Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

### CRYPTIC SOLUTION No127

**ACROSS:** 1 Photograph 7 Jive 9 Spritzer 10 Recent 11 Lucky charm 14 Accident 15 Parity 16 Quasar 18 Subdepot 20 Profession 23 Indigo 24 Denarius 25 Here 26 Down-at-heel. **DOWN:** 2 Hope 3 Twig 4 Gazelle 5 Apricot 6 Hurry up 7 Jack Horner 8 Veneration 12 Occurrence 13 Kiss of life 17 Respond 18 Skiddaw 19 Bonanza 21 Arch 22 Luxe.

### QUICK SOLUTION No128

**ACROSS:** 1 Brigate 6 Curved 9 Plight 10 Cenotaph 11 Lost for words 13 Scuba 14 Plurality 17 Proximity 19 Enjoy 21 Particularly 24 Sizeable 25 Hiccup 26 Cackle 27 Contrary 7 Ratio 8 Expedition 12 Scarlatina 15 Land-yacht 16 Amicable 18 Toluene 20 Urrchin 22 Tweak 23 Quol.

**EASY**

**MEDIUM**

**HARD**




# yourstyle


**BOOTS**

Burt's Bees Head to Toe Starter Kit, price £16.49


**BOOTS**

Fenjal Classic Crème Bath, price £10.55

# Mum's the word

## Show you care on Mother's Day

**THE FRAGRANCE SHOP**

DKNY Be Delicious gift set, price £24.99


**MARKS & SPENCERS**

Wrapped chocolates, price £8.99


**JOHN LEWIS**

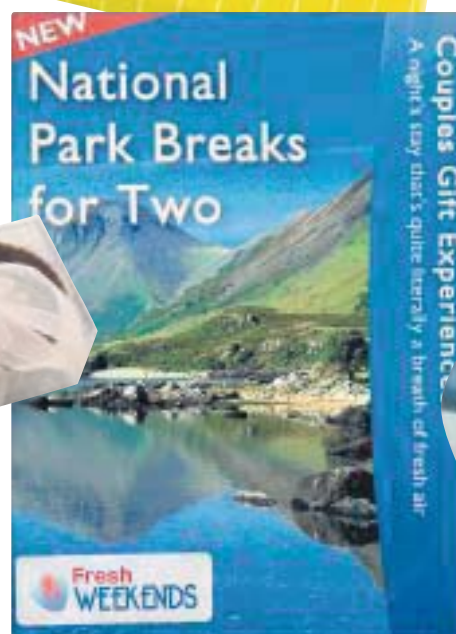
Mother's Day gingerbread, price £2.50


**THE FRAGRANCE SHOP**

Femme de Lacoste, price £22.50


**BOOTS**

National Parks Breaks For Two, price £89


**JOHN LEWIS**

Mother's Day chocolate cups, price £4





# yourweather

WEATHER UPDATES 24 HOURS A DAY @ [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk)

SPONSORED BY



## TODAY'S FORECAST



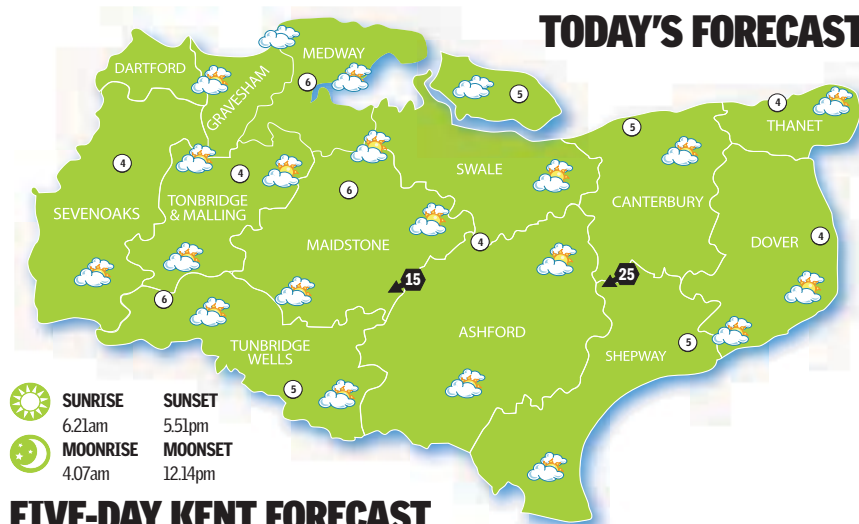
## WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	11:38am	5.5m
	Sunday	12:14pm	5.7m
Dover	Saturday	9:59am	5.9m
	Sunday	10:32am	6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	9:44am	6.6m
	Sunday	10:24am	6.9m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10:29am	4.5m
	Sunday	11:02am	4.6m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:27am	5.3m
	Sunday	12:04pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:42am	4.9m
	Sunday	12:17pm	5.0m



## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	4°C	Madrid	4°C
Athens	11°C	New York	10°C
Barcelona	1°C	Paris	4°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	11°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	29°C
Cape Town	36°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	4°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	17°C	Vancouver	8°C
Hong Kong	16°C	Warsaw	-1°C
Las Palmas	22°C	Wellington	18°C



## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	6°C	6°C	6°C	9°C	9°C	Gravesend	7°C	6°C	7°C	9°C	9°C
Canterbury	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	7°C	Maidstone	6°C	6°C	6°C	9°C	9°C
Chatham	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	8°C	Ramsgate	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	7°C
Dartford	7°C	6°C	7°C	9°C	9°C	Rochester	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	8°C
Dover	5°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C	Sevenoaks	5°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C
Faversham	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	8°C	Sittingbourne	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	8°C
Folkestone	5°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C	Tonbridge	6°C	6°C	6°C	9°C	9°C
Gillingham	5°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	8°C	Tun Wells	6°C	6°C	6°C	9°C	9°C



REFITTED: The Allington Belle returns on Mother's Day

## Mum's the word when the Belle is relaunched

PUSH the boat out for a fantastic Mother's Day treat at Maidstone's family attraction, Kent Life.

As spring finally arrives, the popular Allington Belle boat makes a welcome return on Sunday to give visitors a wonderful trip on the water. Over the winter, the boat underwent a well-deserved refit.

Taking a trip along the river will add an extra touch of magic to a day out at Kent Life, where visitors can learn about the county's fascinating farming heritage in a fun, informal way. Return boat trips depart hourly from 11am, weather permitting, and tickets cost £5/£4 for adults or £2 for children.

Learn more about the countryside and its residents by following the new wildlife discovery trail that gives an insight into the natural life of the area.

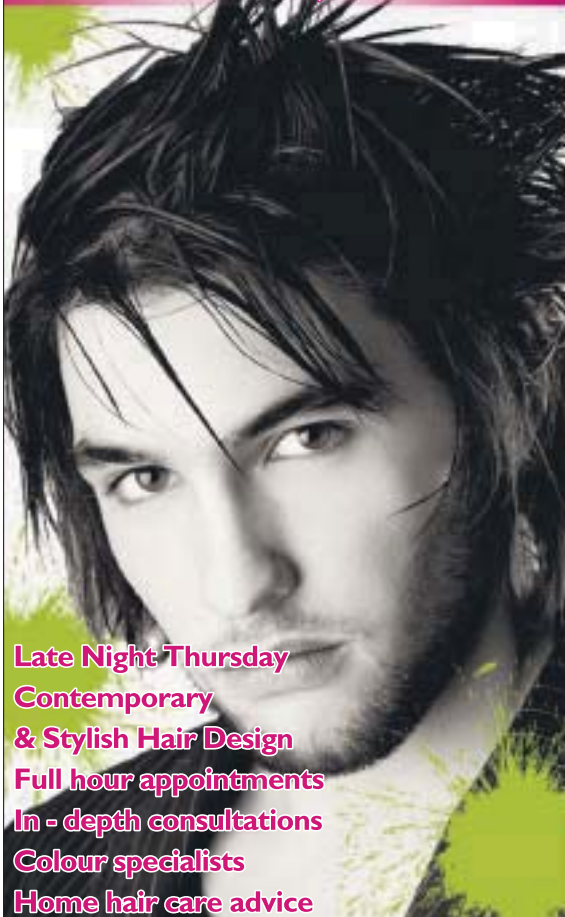
There are also opportunities to learn about period homes that can be seen at Kent Life, as John Howard will be offering guided tours from 11.30am, subject to demand.

With lots of animals such as horses, pigs, goats, donkeys and sheep to meet, Kent Life is offering fantastic family entertainment for Mother's Day.

Admission starts at £3 for children (under-threes get in for free). For more information visit [www.kentlife.org.uk](http://www.kentlife.org.uk) or call 01622 763936.

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**TUCKER PARK**  
 COMMUNAL RESIDENCES

**A MOTHERS DAY TO REMEMBER**  
 Enjoy a delicious sensory in Canical Grill with a welcome drink, complimentary gift for mothers and refreshment provided by our Jazzy Trio. A private dining option is also available at an additional cost, prices available from £25 per person and children are welcome at half price. Subject to availability.



# yourcompetition

## WIN! £500 shopping spree in WHITEFRIARS Canterbury

IS yours a mum in a million?

Here's your chance to make Mother's Day extra special this year for your mum in a million! We've teamed up with Canterbury's award-winning Whitefriars shopping centre to offer one lucky mum the chance to splash out £500 on herself!

With over 100 leading brands, mums are spoilt for choice in Whitefriars.

Need a new wardrobe? Then check out the latest spring ranges from top high street names such as Zara, Phase Eight, Karen Millen, Coast or Hobbs.

Feeling indulgent? Then go for some stunning new jewellery from Beaverbrooks, Mappin & Webb, Goldsmiths, H Samuel or Ernest Jones.

Give your home a spring makeover with furniture and homewares from Fenwick, Next or Bhs.

Boost your home entertainment collection with all the latest titles from HMV or pick up the latest piece of Apple kit from Stormfront. The choice is yours!


For a chance of winning this fabulous prize, simply answer the following question on the voucher and send to Marketing Dept Whitefriars Comp, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

**Question: How many leading brands are there in Whitefriars Canterbury?**

Closing date for receipt of entries is March 19, 2010.

Rules

1. No purchase necessary.
2. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.
3. The prize is £500 of vouchers to spend in participating Whitefriars Canterbury stores only.
4. There is no cash alternative.
5. All entries must be received by 19 March 2010.



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mum's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Age: ☐ 24 and under  
☐ 25-34  
☐ 35-44  
☐ 45-54  
☐ 55+

☐ Please tick this box if you do NOT wish to be kept informed of news and special offers at Whitefriars by email.

WHITEFRIARS Canterbury

# 20 things to do

at **VILLAGE** Maidstone in **2010**




**Make a night of it - rooms from £25 per person, Bed and Breakfast. Quote 'TRIB'**

<b>SPRING BALL</b> Friday 12th March Dinner, variety entertainment by VILLAGE and disco £21.95	<b>Robbie</b> Friday 12th March Dinner and disco £22.00pp	<b>FAKE THAT</b> Friday 19th July Dinner and disco £29.95	<b>PINK</b> Friday 24th September Dinner and disco £22.00pp	<b>girls of the grill</b> on Thursday nights 3 courses and a glass of wine each £25.00 for two.
<b>Mothering Sunday</b> Sunday 14th March All day Convey £15.00pp	<b>BLONDIE</b> Friday 12th March Dinner and disco £22.00pp	<b>Amy Winehouse</b> Friday 20th July Dinner and disco £22.00pp	<b>Heroes Ball</b> Friday 24th September Dinner and disco £29.95	<b>THE GODFATHER OF SUNDAY LUNCHES IS HERE!</b> £15.95 per person RARE STEAK & AMERICAN WHISKY
<b>Motown night</b> Friday 2nd April with the Jazzy Motown Group Dinner and disco £29.95pp	<b>Blues Brothers</b> Friday 18th June Dinner and disco £29.95pp	<b>Girls Aloud</b> Friday 27th August Dinner and disco £29.95pp	<b>Beyonce</b> Friday 22nd October Dinner and disco £22.00pp	<b>Do you, VILLAGE Maidstone, offer more for my Wedding day? We do.</b>
<b>PUSSY CAT DOLLS</b> Friday 23rd April Dinner and disco £29.95pp	<b>Fathers Day</b> Sunday 30th June Served from 1pm All day Convey £15.00pp	<b>UB40</b> Friday 10th September Dinner plus disco £32.50pp	<b>The V Factor</b> Friday 19th November Entertainment extravaganzas dinner and disco all for a great night £24.95	<b>Christmas Vibe with Village</b> Party Nights for all pockets, from £25

**Call our events team on 01622 672200 Option 1**

**Junction 6 off M20**

**Make a night of it - rooms from £25 per person, Bed and Breakfast**



whitefriars



# yourmusic

## A packed week at Hook festival



**ECLECTIC:** Dreadzone bring a fusion of reggae, techno trance and folk to Quarterhouse

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

JAZZ, indie, blues, pop and dub reggae are just some of the range of musical genres being performed at this week's Hook festival in Folkestone.

It's the second such event at the town's arts venue Quarterhouse since it opened last year.

Highlights include Barker and Shaw at the Movies this Friday March 12, where acclaimed jazz musicians Guy Barker and Ian Shaw celebrate the joy of cinema.

Mercury Prize-nominated trumpeter, composer and broadcaster Barker joins forces with Hythe jazz vocalist and pianist Ian Shaw for an evening dedicated to the silver screen.

Tickets for the show at 8pm are £12.50 with £10 concessions, and a £22 meal deal is also available.

On Saturday, March 13, energetic indie outfit Dogs take to the stage, fresh from touring with the likes of Paul Weller, Razorlight and The Enemy.

The band will be supported by Kent-based Autumn Few, The Flack and Nic Bennett with Club Buff DJs. Tickets are £7 and the night kicks off at 7.30pm.

Acclaimed singer-songwriter Maiuko, based in Folkestone's Creative Quarter, brings her blend of African sounds, jazz and blues on Sunday evening.

Preparing for the release of her next album Roots Harmonia later this year, Maiuko and her Quartet will be supported by Laye Sow and Paul Cheneour. Tickets are £7 in advance or £8 on the night.

Then at 8pm on Friday, March 19, Dreadzone bring their eclectic fusion of dub reggae, techno, trance and folk. Last year saw the band play to huge crowds at festivals and venues around the UK and Europe. Tickets are £14.

An evening of Salsa on Saturday, March 20, starts off with a class from Salsa Tiempo before hitting the floor with one of the hottest bands around, Palenke. Tickets are £12 or £10 concessions starting at 7pm, with a £22 meal deal.

UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC VIDEOS TO BROADCAST ON OUR WEBSITE @

[yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



Video to Motion Picture Soundtrack's song Departure. Search 'Departure'



Check out the Live and Local festival in Tunbridge Wells. Search 'Live'



### TOP FIVE GIGS

- 1 The Suspects - 27/2 King Edward VII, Margate
- 2 Craig Sheridan - 27/2 The Alma, Deal
- 3 Shelta - 5/3 Water Rats, Grays Inn Road
- 4 Audio Bullies - 19/3 The Westcoast, Margate
- 5 Rock Night (various artists, including Colt 44) King Edward VII, Margate

Saturday, March 27, sees Gabby Young and Other Animals play their unique experimental take on folk, indie and pop, supported by Kent-based Syd Arthur. Tickets are £8, starting at 8pm.

Free events for children include junk percussion show Bang On! on Sunday March 11.

To book call the Quarterhouse on 01303 858500, go to [www.quarterhouse.co.uk](http://www.quarterhouse.co.uk) or visit the box office in Tontine Street, Folkestone.



**SHOPPERS' PARADISE:** Chatuchak market is the perfect place to restock your wardrobe, with more than 5,000 stalls from which to choose

## yourgetaways

## Pick up a bargain before relaxing in exotic luxury

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

UNLIKE Prague, Berlin and Paris, the capital city of Thailand – Bangkok – hasn't yet made it into the city break hall of fame.

However, as airlines cut long-haul fares to beat the recession, more travellers are likely to find themselves stopping off there, either as a curtain-raiser to the rest of this intriguing country or breaking their journey to some far flung shore for a dose of winter sun.

We'd wisely chosen a hotel that offered respite from the city's hub-bub, the newly-opened President Place Hotel in the business area of Sukhumvit.

Within easy reach of the main markets and historic centre of Bangkok, it still manages to provide luxuriously big rooms, free wi-fi and a swimming pool – all from 4,000 baht (£76) per night.

In the company of a girlfriend, we decided that before hitting the sights, including Bangkok's extraordinary Royal Palace, we needed to pay our respects to one of Bangkok's great cultural landmarks – Chatuchak market.

Open every weekend, this open-air, 5000-plus stall affair is well known among travellers as the only place to go for incredible bargains and a once-in-a-lifetime shopping experience.

Although prices have gradually crept up to match the spending capacity of the more wealthy customers, Chatuchak is still perfect for finding cheap clothes, jewellery and obscure presents.

Heaving with shoppers by midday,

### FACT FILE: BANGKOK

Time difference	+Seven hours (GMT)
Capital	Bangkok
Language	Thai
Population	77,500,000
Currency	Baht
Religion	Buddhist

Sarah O'Meara flew with Thai Airways, which offers Bangkok return fares ex-Heathrow from £509 (two travelling) which include return domestic flights within Thailand to one of 12 destinations. Offer applies for travel until June 30 if booked by March 31. Room rates at the President Park Hotel, Bangkok, start at 4,000 baht (£76).



it's best to get there early (as it's a lot cooler), and accept that at one point you're bound to lose your companions.

As the second most expensive city in south-east Asia, behind Singapore, it can be easy to feel a little small in Bangkok. Edifices built with the profits of high finance soar up around you, filled with luxurious restaurants and extraordinary views.

It's easy for those with just a few baht in their pocket to wander straight past, but don't miss out on this side of the city just because you've got into the habit of spending £1 on lunch.

Head to the bar at the top of one of the hotels. These are open to everyone and are the most perfect setting for a cocktail.

Try the Banyan Tree's Moon bar,

which is located on the 61st floor.

Of all the five-star hotels overlooking the Chao Phraya river at the heart of the city, none sum up the feelings of old-school elegance quite like this 130-year-old hotel, which has seen Joseph Conrad and Ernest Hemingway walk through its doors.

Taking you back to a long-lost era of ceiling fans, lush indoor plants, wooden slatted windows and waiters, dinner on its charming terrace feels like an obligation, rather than a choice.

After two full body massages, followed by a herbal steam and scrub, we left the grandeur of the hotel's spa and hopped on to the hotel's private boat, which took us back across the river for dinner, dressed in our newly purchased dresses.

There are definitely worse ways to spend an evening.



## MOTORS NEWS



### Value for money Skoda winds up the Audi set

NO FAVOURS are sought or given at Volkswagen, judging by the way Skoda's Superb Estate bargain stacks up against VW posh brand Audi's A6 Avant.

The newcomer from VW's Czech brand starts at £17,715 for petrol versions with generous standard kit while the German exec model starts at ten grand more with a fairly ordinary spec for openers.

Most buyers though will surely check out the Superb diesel line-up from £18,185 also including a 'poor man's Quattro' 4x4 version from £23,770.



### Mazda's economic new 6 a tax beater

ZOOM-Zoom motor brand Mazda has revised its company car star for 2010.

Dartford-based Mazda UK says the new-look Mazda6 hatchback and estate line-up (from £16,990) has been refreshed inside and out and Benefit in Kind tax, fuel economy and CO2 emissions improved – the latter are now as low as 138g/km.

Mazda UK sales and marketing chief Mark Cameron said: "Dynamic and engaging driving characteristics have also played a big part in the success of Mazda6 and they remain at the heart of the upgraded model."



### Micra No4 a step up in the high-tech stakes

NISSAN has taken the wraps off its fourth-generation Micra supermini, due here this autumn.

The design does not look as mould-breaking as its predecessor, but the Japanese brand says the newcomer will break ground technically with an all-new three-cylinder petrol engine including supercharged, direct injection and ultra low-emission versions.

It will also be offered with a highly-efficient new generation Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT – automatic) – probably a sign of where smaller cars are going.

Cabin space should be good too with a longer wheelbase.



**FAULT FEAR:** The third-generation Prius is one of three million Toyota cars recalled by the Japanese motoring giant worldwide due to a potentially sticky throttle pedal

# King of the motor world Toyota's annus horribilis

## ROAD TEST TOYOTA PRIUS

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

on its feet though, thanks to a 90 per cent re-engineering of the hybrid system and auto gearbox.

The old 1.5-litre engine has made way for a new 1.8, bringing 24 per cent more power totalling 134bhp in tandem with the car's electric motor.

This gives equivalent performance to a conventional 2.0-litre family car and addresses the Mark II's Achilles Heel – poor motorway fuel consumption.

Cruising efficiency is said to be up 10 per cent now, with an official combined fuel consumption of 72.4mpg.

Driving deliberately as 'Mr Awkward' I couldn't get near that, but I reckon I was up in the 50s and 60s most of the time and despite one high speed dash of about 80 miles, so the big weakness has been put right.

The Prius also now has the lowest CO2 emissions (89g/km) of any UK family car and qualifies for zero road tax – the previous car was liable to £35/year – and can even be switched to EV (electric vehicle) running only, producing zero emissions for up to two kilometres at speeds up to 31mph – ideal for school runs and shopping trips.



**SEE MOTORSTV FOR  
MORE ROAD TESTS  
BY STEVE LOADER @  
yourkenttv.co.uk**



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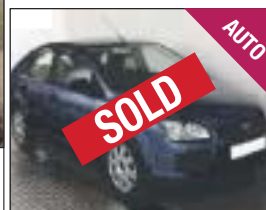


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5 dr, 1 Owner, S/History, 22k  
REDUCED £5,995**NEW****SOLD****NEW 2006 56 NISSAN MICRA**  
1.2 Initia, 5dr, 1 Owner, 22k  
£5,495**7  
SEATER****2006 56 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE**  
7 SEATER, 5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 29k  
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5dr, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 27k  
£6,295**AIR CON****2008 08 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI**  
3dr, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 23k  
REDUCED £7,495**NEW****2007 56 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S**  
3dr, 1 owner, A/C, 15k  
£6,795**AUTO****2006 56 NISSAN NOTE 1.6 SE AUTO**  
5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 37k  
REDUCED £5,995**7  
SEATER****SOLD****2006 56 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA**  
1.6 LIFE 7 SEATER  
1 owner, s/history, A/C, 29k  
£6,795**NEW****2007 56 NISSAN NOTE**  
1.6 SE, 5DR, 1 OWNER, A/C, ALLOYS, 14K  
£6,495**AUTO****2006 06 RENAULT KANGOO**  
1.6 Authentique AUTO, 5dr, 1 owner, 12k  
REDUCED £5,495**TURBO  
DIESEL****2006 06 CITREON PICASSO**  
1.6 TD Desire, 1 Owner, A/C, 30k  
REDUCED £6,495**NEW****2006 56 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S**  
5dr, 1 owner, A/C, alloys, 25k  
£6,395**AUTO****SOLD****2006 56 FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX AUTO,**  
1 owner, A/C, 28k  
£6,495**AIR CON****2006 56 SKODA FABIA**  
1.2 Classic, 5dr, 1 Owner, A/C, 10k  
REDUCED £4,995**T SPIRIT****2006 56 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 T-SPIRIT,**  
3dr, 1 owner, A/C, Alloys, 20k  
REDUCED £6,995**NEW****2007 56 FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC**  
Climate, 5dr, 1 owner, air con, 18k  
£6,495**AIR CON****2006 06 FORD C-MAX 1.6**  
5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 22k  
£6,995**£35  
Road TAX****2006 56 TOYOTA AYGO 1.0**  
VVT-I, 5DR, 1 OWNER, S/HISTORY, 26K  
£6,295**FACELIFT****2007 56 FORD FIESTA**  
1.25 ZETEC CLIMATE  
5 door, 1 owner, s/history, A/C, alloys, 18k  
£6,495**NEW****2007 56 FORD FOCUS**  
1.6 LX AUTO, 5DR, 1 OWNER, A/C, 26K  
£6,495**AUTO****2006 56 NISSAN NOTE 1.6 SE AUTO**  
5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 34k  
REDUCED £5,995**AIR CON****2006 56 TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 T3**  
5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 14k  
REDUCED £6,995**TURBO  
DIESEL****2006 56 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 LIFE T/DIESEL,**  
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09 09 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS AUTO PAS 5 DR AVALON BLUE 2000 MILES.....	£10995
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09 09 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 2000 MILES.....	£10995
09 09 NISSAN MICRA ASENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS DENIM BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£3995
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09 58 PEUGEOT 207 2-TRONIC 3 DR AUTO PAS RED 1400 MILES.....	£7995
09 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR ICE BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£8995
09 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£3995
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09 56 MICRA 1-6 SPORT CONVERT AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLUE 12000 MILES.....	£3995
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09 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 19000 MILES.....	£10495
09 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES.....	£3995
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05 55 BMW 320 DIESEL ES 6 SPEED MANUAL ESTATE 5000 MILES ONLY.....	£13995
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06 56 FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 1242CC 5 DR AUTO PAS BLACK 16000 MILES.....	£5995
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07 57 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 1000 MILES.....	£8995
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06 56 FIESTA 1-4 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIRC BLUE 1000 MILES.....	£7495
05 55 FUSION 3 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 3000 MILES.....	£4995
04 04 FIESTA 1-4 LX AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 24000 MILES.....	£4495

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07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR SILVER 40000 MILES.....	£7495
07 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£6495
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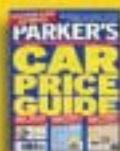
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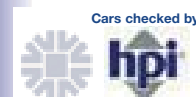
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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Now is the right time to build it yourself

THE current situation sees a more favourable environment for self-build homes, according to one industry expert.

Increased land availability, falling prices and cheaper materials and labour mean there is a real demand from homeowners frustrated by the current property market, according to Raymond Connor, chief executive of construction supplier BuildStore.

"There has never been a better time or more affordable time, to build your own house," he said.

Mr Connor called on the Government and local authorities to recognise this trend and aid self-build projects.

### Bank reviews range of new lending products

NATWEST Intermediary Solutions has added a buy-to-let product to its range, and altered the rates on other products.

The two-year fixed rate mortgage now offers an initial rate of 3.55 per cent up to a maximum loan-to-value of 70 per cent, with a £999 arrangement fee.

A buy-to-let two-year tracker mortgage has been added to the range, offering an initial rate of 4.99 per cent up to 70 per cent LTV with a £1,999 fee.

In NatWest's launch range the rate on its two-year tracker 90 per cent LTV mortgage has been increased to offer an initial rate of 5.69 per cent with a £999 fee and its three-year fixed rate 90 per cent LTV mortgage has increased to an initial rate of 6.59 per cent.

### Experts predict bright future for landlords

AFTER 18 months of uncertainty for the buy-to-let market experts are predicting better times ahead for landlords, says specialist insurance website Coverlines

Experts say that property probably won't get any cheaper and there is still demand for good quality accommodation in the right location from tenants.

And while property prices have fallen, rents have not seen a similar dip.

According to research from Paragon Mortgages, a specialist buy-to-let lender, most landlords have been able to maintain their charges over the last couple of years, with a significant minority saying they have even been able to raise them.

But while properties are now cheaper, mortgages are not so easy to come by.



**CHANGING TIMES:** The post-war need to reduce urban sprawl has been replaced by the need to take climate change and quality of life into account, says Professor Beddington

# Call to review strategy on long-term land use

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Government needs to overhaul the land use planning system to cope with future housing needs and the green agenda, its chief scientist has warned.

Professor John Beddington has warned the current land use system – which dates back to World War Two – is not fit for purpose in the 21st century.

He said that many of its statutes are dated and far greater provision needs to be made for environmental concerns which were simply not on the agenda more than half a century ago when the strategy currently being used was drawn up.

Acknowledged expert on environmental affairs Prof Beddington said post-war aims such as reducing urban sprawl have been met and that planners would now need to focus on problems like providing more residential and commercial development.

He made his statement in a report Land Use

Futures, which was sponsored by government departments Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Communities and Local Government.

Another vital factor to be taken into account is the overall quality of life for residents who will see things such as climate change have a lasting impact on coming generations.

He said more development would be needed in the next 50 years to cope with an ageing population, and development needed to be planned to reduce pressure on transport infrastructure.

Problems would be most acute in the South East, he added.

"Business as usual is not an option over the long-term," he said. "Without being smart about how land is used, we risk missing targets, such as halting biodiversity loss."

"The effects of climate change and new pressures on land could escalate, seriously eroding

the quality of life," said Prof Beddington. He said the Government needed to make critical choices on the priorities for land use in different parts of the UK, how to accommodate more development while protecting landscapes, and how to promote use of the land that is sustainable.

Prof Beddington is a specialist in the economics and biology of sustainable management of renewable resources, and has previously advised UK ministers on scientific and environmental issues.

He chairs the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs science advisory panel and the Defence Scientific Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Natural Environmental Research Council.

He has also advised the European Commission and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Professor Beddington was awarded the Heidelberg Award for Environmental Excellence in June 1997 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2001

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• SHOWER ROOM  
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• COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS

£650,000

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### Bower Mount Road £450,000

Four bedroom detached family home. Lounge, separate dining room, downstairs cloakroom, fitted kitchen, utility room and a study. Double garage. Ensuite to master, bathroom.

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### Vinters Park Offers in excess of £295,000

Detached four bedroom home. 24' living room, dining room and a 16' kitchen. An internal viewing is recommended.

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### Maidstone £315,000

Extended semi detached family home. Three bedrooms, bathroom, double aspect living room, sitting room/bedroom four, extended dining room, downstairs shower room & approx. 80ft rear garden.

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### Maidstone Asking Price £349,950

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### Maidstone Offers in excess of £400,000

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### Detling £400,000

Four bed detached chalet bungalow. Lounge/diner, study or second lounge, refitted kitchen, refitted shower room, d/glazing, c/heating, garage, off road parking for several cars and a balcony.

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### Detling £300,000

Three bedroom detached bungalow. Study, lounge/dining room, re-fitted four piece bathroom suite. Other benefits include c/heating, d/glazing and cavity wall insulation.

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### Maidstone Offers in excess of £320,000

Double storey extended semi detached house. With double aspect living room, en suite bathroom to master, annexe potential, corner plot location, garage, parking and no ongoing chain.

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### Sandling £420,000

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### Weaving

- 3 bedroom terrace house
- UPVC double glazing
- Garage

**£199,950**

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- Top floor apartment, 2 bedrooms,
- Newly fitted kitchen, Bathroom
- storage heating, d/glazing, no chain.

**OIEO £120,000**

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### Maidstone

- Four bedroom mid terrace house
- kitchen, lounge
- Conservatory/diner family bathroom.

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### Maidstone

- 3/4 bedrooms, 2/3 reception rooms,
- kitchen, bathroom, shower room,
- ample off road parking.

**£315,000**

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### Harrietsham

- Three bedroom link detached house.
- 2 reception rooms. En-suite Shower
- Room, Utility Room.

**£239,950**

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### Weaving

- 2 bedroom first floor apartment
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- Communal gardens allocated parking.

**£165,000**

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### Maidstone

- Spacious Victorian terrace home
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen, two
- bedrooms, bathroom, useful cellar.

**£159,995**

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### Maidstone

- Ragstone cottage 3/4 bedrooms.
- Kitchen, D/glazed conservatory. Off
- road parking. No forward chain.

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2 double bedroom 1st floor apartment situated in the sought after Barming district of Maidstone with good access to the M20.

## Maidstone



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## Maidstone



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## Maidstone



**Offers in excess of £250,000**

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## Maidstone



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Three bedroom semi detached home. Two reception rooms, kitchen, garage/workshop and with garden to front, side and rear.

## Barming



**£274,995**

Three bed home. Lounge/diner leading to kitchen plus a study leading to the garden. Upstairs, bathroom & en-suite shower.

## Maidstone



**£334,995**

Four bed home. Lounge and dining room, kitchen, office, bathroom and en-suite shower room.

## Larkfield



**£375,000**

Four bedroom detached family home with double garage, lake views and three reception rooms. Viewing essential.

## Maidstone



**£525,000**

Detached home with five bedrooms. En suite to master & guest room. Garden, garage & off street parking.

## Maidstone

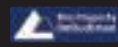


**£609,995**

Six bed home. Lounge, dining room and kitchen. Partially converted garage which, pending the relevant approvals.

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## Maidstone

**£169,995**



- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Parking

## Maidstone

**£159,995**



- Victorian 2 Double Bed Home
- Completely Refurbished
- Single Chamber Cellar
- Lounge and Dining Room

## Maidstone

**£125,000**



- 2 Bed Top Floor Apartment
- Balcony
- Ensuite to the Master Bedroom
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen

## Maidstone

**£145,950**



- Extended 3 Bed End of Terrace
- Utility Room
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- No Forward Chain

## Maidstone

**£159,950**



- 3 Bed Semi Detached Home
- Separate Lounge and Dining Room
- Front and Rear Garden
- No Onward Chain!!!

## Maidstone

**£144,950**



- Top Floor 2 Bed Purpose Built Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Great Access for M20
- Gated Development

## Maidstone

**£85,000**



- 1 Bed Retirement Apartment
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- Communal Lounge / Garden

## Maidstone

**OIEO £189,999**



- Two/Three Bedroom House
- Cellar Room/Bedroom Three
- Luxury Shower Room
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## East Farleigh

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- Delightful 2 bed property
- Village Location
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Open Plan Accommodation

## Maidstone

**£180,000 - £200,000**



- 3 Bed Victorian Mid Terrace House
- Many Character Features
- Approx 60" Rear Garden
- Downstairs Bathroom

## Maidstone

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- End of Terrace 2 Bed Home
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**Larkfield**



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- Garage And Driveway

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**£299,995**

**Lenham**



- Three Bedroom Family Home
- Extended To Ground Floor
- Driveway Plus Garage

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**Maidstone**



- 3 Bed Semi-Detached Home
- Own Driveway & Garage
- En-Suite & Downstairs Cloakroom

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**Halling**



- 3 Bedroom End Of Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Substantial Rear Gardens

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**£189,995**


**Maidstone**



- 3 Bed Period Property
- Many Original Features
- Town Centre Location

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**£145,000-£155,000**

**Ryarsh**



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**Grafty Green**



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**Ditton**



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**Harrietsham**



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- Attractive Village Location

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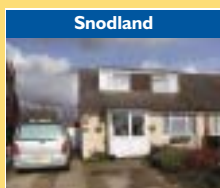
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**TO LET**



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- 2 Bedroom End Of Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms

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**Bearsted: 01622 730955**

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# Madeleine Rose



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Web ref: 751



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**Detached modern 4 bedroom family house located in a quiet location at the end of a cul de sac.**

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Delightful elevated deck and lawned garden overlooking coppice and farmland.  
Double garage and driveway parking.

Web ref: 752



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**£800 pcm**

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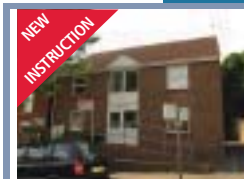
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- Available April

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£625pcm



- 2 bed ground floor apartment
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- Gas central heating

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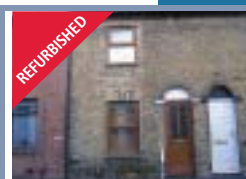
£650pcm



- 2 bed ground floor apartment
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£750pcm



- Two bed spacious apartment
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- Balcony
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Tarragon Road

£895pcm



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## Saint George's

Church of England School  
Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS  
Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 533844  
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College  
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

### Caretaker

(Full time post – 37 hours per week)

**Salary Kent Scheme Band 4, points 11-14 (£15,984 to £16,793 p.a.)**

General maintenance and caretaking duties, working alternate shift patterns:  
A: 05:00 to 14:00 (3/5 days) and 05:00 to 13:30 (2/5 days)  
B: 13:00 to 22:00 (3/5 days), 13:30 to 22:00 (1/5 days) and 13:30 to 19:30 (1/5 days).

Good team working skills and the ability to interact positively with students are essential.

Saint George's C of E School is an over-subscribed comprehensive school. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.  
Email [dhariwall@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk](mailto:dhariwall@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk) or visit our website [www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk](http://www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk)

**Closing Date : 24 March 2010**





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Employment benefits, include contributory pension, health plan and child care vouchers. A current driving licence and access to a car is essential. Appointment is subject to an enhanced CRB.

**For application packs email [micheala.clack@carersfirst.org.uk](mailto:micheala.clack@carersfirst.org.uk) or telephone Micheala Clack on 01732 357555.**  
**Closing Date is 24 March 2010.**

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**Science / Maths**

Further details, including an application form, are available from the school's website, [www.raaave.com](http://www.raaave.com) or from Muireann Casserly, e-mail [mcasserly@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk](mailto:mcasserly@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk)

**The closing date for application is Friday 19th March 2010.**




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You'll need to be non-judgmental and compassionate with a firm but fair approach. Helping to build self esteem, you'll help to guide our young people to a fresh start and release their true potential.

**Think you've got what it takes to make a real difference? Call us now on 01634 823322 Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 4.30pm quoting ref: KSTC03.**

**Closing date: 19th March 2010. An assessment day will be held on 1st April 2010 and successful applicants will join us on 10th May 2010.**

Please note that these vacancies are subject to a 10 year checkable history, an enhanced CRB check and the strict vetting standards set by Rebound and the Secretary of State for the Home Office and are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

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KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

You will be the first point of contact to all callers, visitors and Service Users accessing KCA's Maidstone office. You must be confident handling enquiries about the service, whether by telephone, e-mail, post or in person and ensure that enquiries are dealt with promptly, efficiently and courteously.

As a key member of the Administration team, you will have top MS Office skills and a 'can do' approach. You will be able to communicate with a wide cross-section of staff, partnership agencies and external contacts in a highly professional manner. You need to be able to prioritise, work to tight deadlines and respond appropriately to referrals. An ability to remain calm under pressure would be a great advantage.

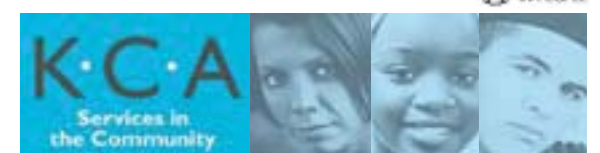
If you would like further information on this post please call Christine Gordon, Administration Lead on 01795 590795 ex.2 or Michelle Snook West Kent and Medway Prescribing Lead on 01622 690944.

**Closing date: 15 March 2010 at 5pm. • Interview date: 29 March 2010.**

An application form and job description can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 643.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)







## Saint George's

### Church of England School

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS  
Tel: 01474 533082 • Fax: 01474 561536  
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College  
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Saint George's C of E School is an over-subscribed comprehensive school. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescfe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website  
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**Closing Date : 24 March 2010**

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**Ref: DIR08**

**Salary: Circa 60K (Dependent upon qualifications and experience) Medway/Maidstone**

MidKent College is a large, successful Further Education College based in the Medway towns and Maidstone. With a new state of the art campus in Medway we are now looking for an experienced and qualified manager to direct and manage the strategic development of our estate, including a full refurbishment programme for our Maidstone site.

You should hold MCIOB, MRICS or equivalent qualifications and ideally will have experience of project management in the Further Education sector. You will require strong interpersonal skills and a range of communication techniques to support the process of change, engaging with staff and stakeholders in developing new business processes for facilities management. Your capabilities as a strategic thinker will be used to develop whole College solutions that maximise the estate as an asset and provide the widest possible learning opportunities for people in Medway and Maidstone.

For an informal discussion please contact **Rishi Sharma on 01634 383515**  
**Closing date: Friday 19 March 2010**

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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*This post will be subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure and ISA check.*

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Head of Registration  
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You must be BACP, BABCP or UKCP accredited, highly experienced as a therapist with a Diploma in Counselling and trained to work in an area recognised by the NICE guidelines (couple counselling, IPT, CBT or psychodynamic models). You will also have good management skills, an enthusiastic approach to evidence based practice and a commitment to service development.

For more information please contact Susan Wyles, Service Manager on 07725 433267.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number: 645.

**Closing date: 26 March 2010. • Interview date: 9 April 2010 in Ashford.**

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all.  
Charity no: 292824

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)







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Picture: HELEN COOPER



TOP: Courtney Tulloch claimed second place at event

## GYMNASTICS

### Pegasus celebrate two top-ten finishes

PEGASUS Gymnastics Club enjoyed a fine weekend at the English Men's Championships with two boys finishing in the top ten.

Courtney Tulloch claimed second place while James Hall finished sixth – the latter doing well to maintain his position after suffering an ankle injury during the competition.

Both boys began on the pommel and produced smooth routines in their pursuit of leader Frank Baines, who recorded a superb total score of 82.40.

Hall's performance on the rings was good but Tulloch eclipsed him with an awesome display of clean holds, quality swings and accurate technique to leave him just 0.1 behind Baines – so often his greatest rival.

Tulloch continued to excel on the vault as he nailed a straight Tsukahara, but Hall's day took a turn for the worse as he failed to control his own vault, incurring a step penalty of 1.5 and injuring his ankle in the process.

The final apparatus, floor, saw Hall reduce the difficulty and complete a clean, elegant routine to secure sixth, before Tulloch produced a controlled double front somersault to score 13.35 and a total 81.55.

In a competition used as a selection event for the European Championships, World Championships and Commonwealth Games, Tulloch walked away with gold on rings and floor as well as his silver for the overall competition.

Also representing Pegasus, Joel Burch entered the senior competition but struggled to find his form having had his pre-event training disrupted by injury.

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THRASHING: The Bulls have struggled ever since promotion to London 1 South last summer, losing 21 of their 22 games in what has proved to be a tough season

Picture: MARTYN WATSON

# Aylesford hope to save face before they are relegated

## RUGBY

■ BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

### Old Colfeians 58 Aylesford Bulls 12

AYLESFORD Bulls' limited hopes of getting to the end of the season without suffering a heavy defeat were ended with a thrashing at Old Colfeians on Saturday.

The Bulls' long-awaited relegation had been confirmed by a 22-3 defeat at Chobham a week earlier. It left them just pride to play for in the remaining five games as the squad attempt to build for life in London 2 South East next season.

They suffered their biggest defeat of the season, going down 58-12 at Old Colfeians on Saturday. Team manager Nick France, who was not at the game, bemoaned the squad's injury problems this season and feel they have lacked the extra edge needed to turn good performances into results.

He said: "We had hoped not to take a big beating. We're building for next season and it would be nice in the remaining games to get some stability. The backs haven't been too bad but our

pack has changed massively every week. The big problem is we look at what we can put out on paper and it's wonderful, but every week people are unavailable or injured.

"There have been several games where we have played very well but it's that ability to be able to win games in those situations. I personally believe we are better than the teams in mid-table. Clubs like Tunbridge Wells, Old Colfeians, Chobham and Cobham – when we played them I really didn't think they were that good, but they're doing really well. We are equally as good as them but winning is a habit."

The Bulls have struggled ever since promotion to London 1 South last summer, losing 21 of their 22 games to date. France admitted he believed it would be tough to survive as early as the first game after a difficult summer bringing the right players in.

He said: "We recruited a few players from overseas which didn't turn out to be what we wanted. We started the season with a weaker squad than the one which finished the season before, because we lost a couple of guys heading back to New Zealand and the army. From the first whistle it became clear the league was a big step up from last season."

Elsewhere, Maidstone's relegation from London 1 South was confirmed after third from bottom Old Elthamians won their game against Chobham, leaving an unassailable gap to the bottom two. Maidstone's fixture with Gravesend at The Mote on Saturday was cancelled, with the home side reportedly unable to fulfil the fixture. The two points were awarded to the league leaders, sending the home side down with four games to spare.

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# Nott hunts new signing to strengthen his squad

## FOOTBALL

■ BY YOUR MAIDSTONE REPORTER

### Sutton United 0

### Maidstone United 0

MAIDSTONE United boss Peter Nott is targeting another new signing following the club's goalless draw against Sutton United on Saturday.

The Stones helped their bid to avoid relegation with a point against play-off hopefuls Sutton, despite being hampered by new signing Chris Saunders seeing red with half an hour of the game remaining.

The new Stones manager made three new signings on the eve of Saturday's game, with striker Alex Tiesse rejoining the club, midfielder Saunders joining from Welling United and striker Charlie Stimson joining on work experience from Gillingham.

All three new signings featured in the squad on Saturday, which saw Maidstone forced to hang on for large parts following Saunders' red card. Goalkeeper Andy Walker was forced to make a string of smart saves to deny Sutton and earn Maidstone a point.

Nott was pleased with a point, but admitted



**SEEING RED:** Chris Saunders (pictured right) was sent off on his Maidstone United debut

Picture COLIN READ

he is hoping to add another new face to the squad for the crucial run in.

He said: "The new signings have definitely helped us improve the numbers and add much more competition for places. There is another player we are looking at to bring it, but it isn't proving as easy as first thought. We hope to have news on that this week.

"With Chris (Saunders) he will give us much

### Maidstone starting XI



Subs used: Hernandez-Bradshaw (Cornella 62), Rowland (Hockton 37), Elliott (Stimson 66)

more bite in the midfield and he was unlucky to get a red card in his first game. He has not had many games while he was at Welling so there will be more to come from him. We have been looking for a lively forward and Alex (Tiesse) will certainly give us that option. Charlie (Stimson) is still learning to adapt to this level of the game but he has shown some nice touches so we're looking forward to seeing what he can bring to us."

Despite picking up four points from their last two games, the Stones have dropped down a place in the table and are four points above the relegation zone. With 11 games of the season remaining, Nott is unsure how many his side need to win to beat the drop.

He said: "People have asked me how many wins I think we need, but to be honest I don't know. This league is so tight it's really difficult to say. We managed to pick up a point and moved down one place in the league table. All we have got to do is make sure we keep getting the points."

## FOOTBALL



Picture ELFC

**RECOVERING:** Craig Stone is hoping to help guide Maidstone United to safety after his recovery

## Stone thanks United for help in recovery bid

MIDFIELDER Craig Stone has spoken of his gratitude after being offered a chance to rebuild his football career at Maidstone United.

The 21-year-old central midfielder joined the Stones after a year out of the game following a broken leg sustained in an FA Trophy game for Ebbsfleet United 13 months ago.

Stone, a former Gillingham player, began his football career at Maidstone United in the youth ranks and is glad of the opportunity to help the club avoid relegation and aid his recovery in the process.

The midfielder has already played five games for club after joining on a game-by-game basis. Despite his injury problems of last year, Stone is confident he can make a full recovery while at the club.

He said: "I'm starting to feel good about how things are going. There is more to come from me and I'm easing myself back into football. I've known Peter Nott (Stones boss) a very long time so to get the chance to come back to Maidstone is great. It's a club I've always looked out for so I'm hoping I can help them out and help my recovery."

"It's the worst thing as a player sitting on the sidelines. My target is and will always be to try and play at the highest level possible. I will have that target until someone comes and tells me that I'm too old or that I've had my chance."

The Stones were in action last night against Ryman Premier leaders Dartford. Log on to [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk) for a full report.

## LEAGUE TABLE

### RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dartford	27	19	4	4	+40	61
2 Kingstonian	32	16	5	11	+6	53
3 Hastings United	31	14	8	9	+10	50
4 Sutton United	29	14	6	9	+15	48
5 Boreham Wood	31	14	4	13	+5	46
6 Horsham	29	13	5	11	+7	44
7 Tooting & Mitcham	31	12	8	11	-1	44
8 Canvey Island	29	12	7	10	+3	43
9 Wealdstone	27	11	10	6	+1	43
10 Harrow Borough	30	11	9	10	+3	42
11 AFC Hornchurch	30	10	11	9	+2	41
12 Ashford Town (Mx)	31	10	10	11	-5	40
13 Tonbridge Angels	30	11	6	13	-6	39
14 Aveley	28	11	5	12	+5	38
15 Hendon	28	11	5	12	+1	38
16 Cray Wanderers	32	11	5	16	-17	38
17 Maidstone United	29	10	7	12	-8	37
18 Billericay Town	29	8	9	12	-3	33
19 Carshalton Athletic	29	8	9	12	-7	33
20 Waltham Abbey	28	8	6	14	-14	30
21 Bognor Regis Town	29	6	10	13	-13	28
22 Margate	29	6	7	16	-24	25

## FIXTURES

(Saturday): Ryman League Premier Division:

Maidstone United v Cray Wanderers

## Two wins in 48 hours is blessing for title chasers

## HOCKEY

TWO wins from a double-header have significantly increased Maidstone ladies' hopes of securing the East Women's Premier League title.

Rachel Thompson's ladies 1st XI are just four points adrift of leaders Canterbury with two games remaining, following wins against Saffron Walden and West Herts at the weekend.

On Saturday Maidstone produced one of their performances of the season to thrash Saffron Walden 6-0. They raced into a two-goal lead courtesy of strikes from Thompson and Lizzie Daniels.

Katherine Waldron scored twice after the break as Maidstone continued to dominate and two further goals from Thompson and Hannah Dulstone completed the victory.

Sunday's game against West Herts proved to be a much tougher battle, but Maidstone still managed to secure a 1-0 win.

The ladies struggled to find a way through the well-organised West Herts defence and the game looked to be heading for a draw until Dulstone struck in the dying minutes.

Thompson's side face Thurrock this Saturday, as they look to close the gap to leaders Canterbury 2s.

Maidstone men also enjoyed a successful weekend with a 6-3 win against Purley Walcountians which moved them into sixth in South Hockey League Premier Division One.

A brace from top scorer Chris Bassano-Harper and strikes from Kevin Johnson, Tom



Picture IAN KIRKPOT

**TITLE HOPES:** Maidstone helped their title aspirations with two wins from their East Women's Hockey Premier Division double-header

Nissen, Nick Leatherbarrow and Joe Meaning secured the three points. Maidstone are back in league action this Saturday, when they travel to Wimbledon.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson looks ahead to a crucial run of games in League One



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